2
BANRI HIDAKA
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

I HATE YOU more than anyone!

Volume 2

By Banri Hidaka

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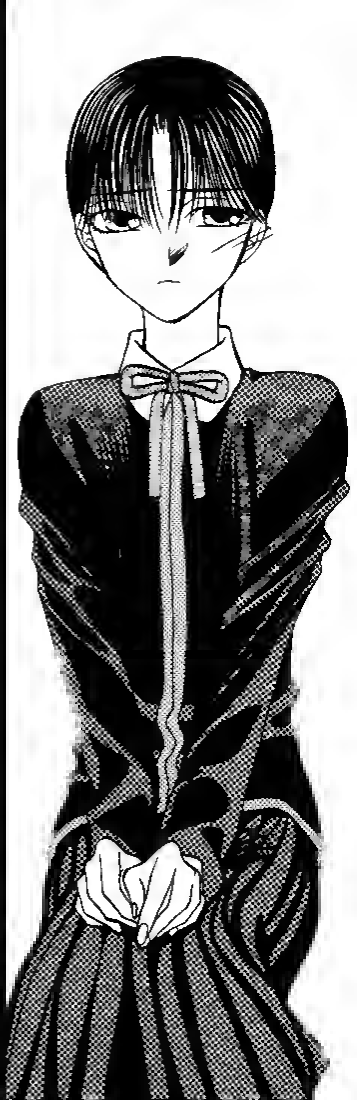
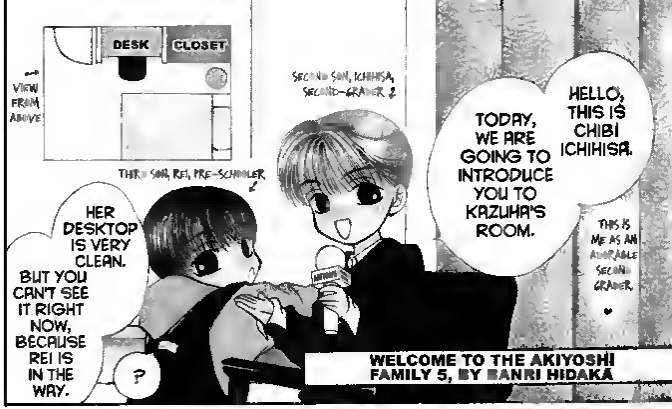
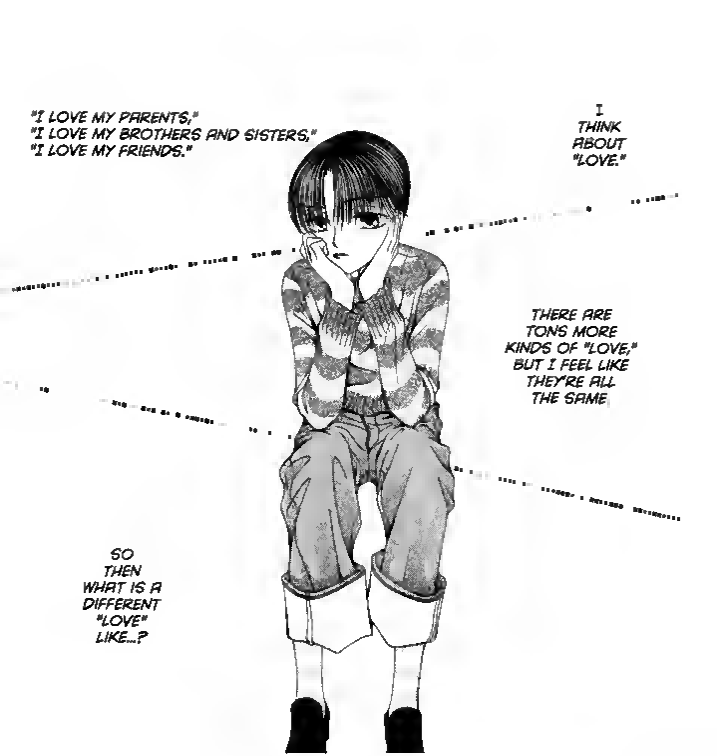



DESK
CLOSET
VIEW FROM ABOVE
SECOND SON, ICHIHISA, SECOND-GRADER
THIRD SON, REI, PRE-SCHOOLER
HELLO, THIS IS CHIBI ICHIHISA.
TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO INTRODUCE YOU TO KAZUHA'S ROOM.
THIS IS ME AS AN ADORABLE SECOND GRADER.
HER DESKTOP IS VERY CLEAN.
BUT YOU CAN'T SEE IT RIGHT NOW, BECAUSE REI IS IN THE WAY.
?
WELCOME TO THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY 5, BY BANRI HIDAKA

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SLAM
WHAT AM I DOING?
SURELY THERE'S A DIRTY MAGAZINE OR TWO IN A HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S BEDROOM...
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE TRACE OF THE LEWD I SAW...
WHA-?
THAT'S WEIRD.
-ANGH-
MAYBE IT'S UNDER THE BED?
?
CREAK...
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT'S INSIDE THE CLOSET?
I WILL NOW REVEAL KAZUHA SECRETS. ♡
SECOND DAUGHTER, MANAKA, EIGHTH GRADER
AH... THERE'S NO CHIZURU...AH WELL.
EVERYONE, PLEASE TURN THE PAGE AND ENJOY THE STORY.
STUPIDITY BROUGHT TO YOU BY ICHIHISA.
THIRD DAUGHTER, TSUBAME, FOURTH GRADER
KAZUHA'S ROOM
TORTURE ROOM
I AM NOT A BOY!!
HEE HEE HEE HEE UGYAAAAAAH!!
OH?
(HMM OKAY.)
HOOOOO
WHAT
!!
-EEP!-

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!


"I LOVE MY PARENTS,"
"I LOVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS,"
"I LOVE MY FRIENDS."
I THINK ABOUT "LOVE."
THERE ARE TONS MORE KINDS OF "LOVE," BUT I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.
SO THEN WHAT IS A DIFFERENT "LOVE" LIKE...?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS !
(WHAT ERA ARE THESE PEOPLE IN?)

☞ SUGIMOTO K. "82"

YES. KAZUHA IS CURRENTLY 25. THEREFORE, THIS IS A STORY ABOUT HER PAST--IN OTHER WORDS THE KAZUHA I'M WRITING ABOUT NOW IS A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE AND IS 17. SO THIS STORY WOULD BE TAKING PLACE ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO (..CONFUSING.) THAT LEADS TO LOTS OF COMMENTS FROM THE READERS ABOUT THE CLOTHING STYLES. ARE THEY STILL EN VOGUE?
I TRIED TO GIVE THEM CLOTHES THAT WOULDN'T GO OUT OF FASHION, BUT. (BUT FOR CHAPTER COVERS, BONUS MATERIAL AND OTHER COLOR CUTS I DID WHATEVER I WANTED!)
WELL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. 'KAY?
(I NEVER HAD ANY FASHION SENSE TO BEGIN WITH, SO IT PROBABLY ISN'T MUCH OF AN ISSUE.)

BUT I STILL WORRY ABOUT THE CLOTHES THE GUYS WEAR. LIKE WHAT I SHOULD HAVE THEM WEAR. I JUST PUT THEM IN BLACK TURTLENECKS. OY. (WELL I LIKE THEM.) AND TODAY I'M HAVING ANOTHER STARING CONTEST WITH A FASHION MAGAZINE. SIGH!
OH. I LOVE UNIFORMS.

ZEHH
HAA
ZEHH
HAA
ZEHH
BAM
MISS KAZUHA.
CITY LOVERS, SA-SHA BEST.
COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THIS?

LUNCHTIME
SHOCK
SUUUUUUU
WHAT'S UP, MATSUOKA?
WEREN'T YOU HOME SICK WITH A FEVER TODAY?
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!
...SENKO ...?

OH
-GEH.-
DROP

WHAM
A MAGAZINE
LOOK AT THIS! THIS!!

SA=SHA, BEST
FIRST PLACE
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHY DID THEY PUBLISH IT?!
* SEE CHAPTER 5*
THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING YOU!
K.Y. (HA AKIYOSHI-SAN, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT)
MAKI SUGIMOTO-SAN, 24 (HAIR STYLIST)
DON'T SAY THAT NAME!!
WHY ARE YOU FIND SUGIMOTO--
SENKO
TAKE THAT!
WHAM!
POW
↑WHAT'S UP WITH THIS ARTICLE?
OOOHHH? THIS IS THE SA-SHA THAT COMES OUT TOMORROW, ISN'T IT?
OF...
HO HO HO
MORE IMPORTANTLY..
AND YOUR HAIR IS SO LONG, KAZUMA!
TOBISHIMA BOOKS GETS THEIR MAGAZINES A DAY EARLY
OF ALL THINGS WHY NOW?!

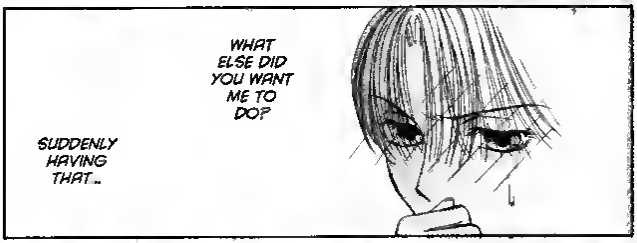
STOP IT!
->GYAAAAAHH!<-
COME ON, COME ON.
PMS
SUUUU-GIII-MOOOO-TOOOO-SAAAA-NNNN--
EHP WHAT ABOUT SUGIMOTO?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH SUGIMOTO?
WASN'T SHE STAYING HOME FROM SCHOOL?
SHOULDN'T WE TAKE HER TO THE NURSE?
AH! SENKO! SHE'S DYING!

EVER SINCE YOU WENT TO SEE SUGIMOTO-SAN...
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING KIND OF WEIRD..
GOOD GRIEF
-SIGH-
YOU KNOW...
I WON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
I WON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

...GET SUGIMOTO OUT OF MY HEAD.
HE KISSED YOU?!

...KAZUHA?
I CAN'T

WELL? WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
NICE GOING, SUGIMOTO!
DON'T TELL SENSEI!
THIS TIME IT WAS ON THE MOUTH!
AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL LAST YEAR...
HASN'T HE DONE THAT BEFORE?
I HIT HIM AND RAN AWAY
FIGURES


WHAT ELSE DID YOU WANT ME TO DO?
SUDDENLY HAVING THAT...

THAT...

...!
JUST
A...!

BAH!
!
RIGID
OH NO, MAYBE I WENT TO FAR.
AH.
HUH?
BLUSH
?
KAZUHA-CHAN?
PH... LET ME SORT THAT OUT...IN MY HEAD
CON-FUSED
WHAT?
JUST...
UH...

SPIN, SPIN, SPIN
REALI-ZATION
A WA WA WA
WAAH!
KAZUHA-CHAN?
UM
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HONEY?
AH, CUTE!
IDIOT
KAZUHA-CHAN, KAZUHA-CHAN!
HEY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
SUGIMOTO IS SAYING SOMETHING.
I'M SORRY! I'LL TAKE YOU HOME NOW
MY HEART IS BEATING SO FAST
I CAN'T HEAR HIM
IT'S BECAUSE OF HIM...
ALWAYS!
ALRIGHT? SO..
THIS STUFF ALWAYS, ALWAYS --
CLENCH

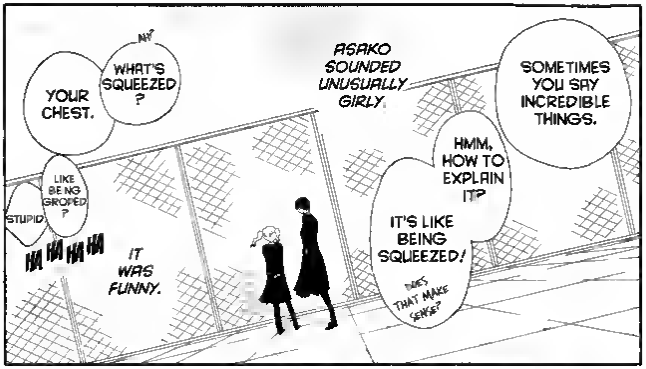
--EVERY TIME, EVERY TIME, I NEVER HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING--

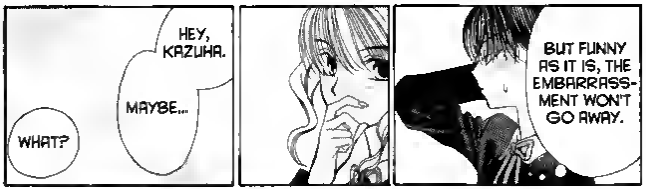
AND I'M TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT WHAT SUGIMOTO DID...
AND IT WAS EVEN WORSE AFTER I GOT HOME.
BUT THIS CHAOTIC EMBARRASSMENT WHIRLS AROUND INSIDE ME! DAAAAHH!
AAAAA

HEY, WHAT'S IT LIKE TO LOVE SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY?
KAZUHA?
NN?
H.. HUH.
...
THAT'S CUTE...?
WHEN WE WENT TO A HAUNTED HOUSE AND I SAID, "IT WASN'T VERY SCARY, WAS IT?" HE SAID THAT THE GUY DOING REPAIRS INSIDE BEING LIT UP WAS SCARY
I GUESS I LIKE THAT HE'S DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE—
AND WHEN HE WAS RIDING HIS BIKE, THERE WAS A GIANT ANT IN FRONT OF HIM, AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAD TO SQUISH IT, SO HE DODGED IT WITH HIS FRONT WHEEL, BUT WENT RIGHT OVER IT WITH HIS BACK WHEEL HE'S SO CUTE WHEN HE DOES DUMB THINGS LIKE THAT... I LOVE HIM
I HAVE TONS OF OTHER EXAMPLES
DON'T YOU THINK HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH HE WANTS TO KISS YOU, KAZUHA?
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW SUGIMOTO LOVES ME EXACTLY.
WHEN...HE KISSED ME. MY HEART POUNDED LIKE CRAZY.
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS POUNDING BECAUSE OF THE KISS, OR IF IT WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT ...
...MAYBE I LOVE SUGIMOTO, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
I HATE THINKING THAT, BUT IT WON'T GO AWAY

I HATE YOU!!
I REALLY HATE THAT ABOUT YOU.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO YOU FOR HELP!
DAMN, LET GO OF ME!
YOU DON'T GET THAT MUCH TO SAY TODAY!
STUPID ONE!
MWAH
MWAH
THE SHARP WORDS SHE'D SPIT AT HIM, UP 'TIL NOW.
SAAAAHHH
...COULD IT BE...
NO, NO "COULD BE" ABOUT IT
HUH?
THE MORE...
YOU JUST THINK THOSE THINGS NATURALLY.
LIKE HE WANTS TO HOLD YOUR HAND HE WANTS TO BE WITH YOU.
THE MORE YOU LOVE SOMEONE, THE MORE YOU THINK THAT.
YOU LOVE SOMEONE..
AND HE CRIES WHEN HE SEES ME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.
WHAT THE HELL, MAN! IT'S LIKE I'M THE BAD GUY, HERE!
OH, IT'S THE BELL.
KI-NG-GO-NG
ACTUALLY, I'M GOING TO SEE TAKASAKI AFTER I GO HOME TODAY.
I WASN'T THINKING OF IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO SHOW OFF SO MUCH WHERE HE'LL BE TAKING CLASSES NEXT/ALL I COMPARE THIS YEAR.
SUGIMOTO. THERE'S NO WAY IT WOULDN'T HURT HIM EVERY TIME I SAY THOSE THINGS.
-SHUU!!-
DOKKI
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE. YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. THERE WASN'T EVEN AN INKLING OF IT IN EVEN A CORNER OF MY BRAIN. AM I A DEMON? I GUESS I AM A DEMON. I DON'T CARE IF I AM A DEMON!!
BUT HE'S GOT NO CHANCE!
HEART SHOUTING OUT

SORRY TAKASAKI AND I HAVE THE SAME HOBBY
DON'T GO AROUND SELLING PEOPLE'S PICTURES TO OTHER SCHOOLS!
BIRDS OF A FEATHER
"YOU'RE HORRIBLE!"
BUT BOYS PREFER PICTURES OF YOU SMILING OR SLEEPING OVER THE ONES OF YOU LOOKING LIKE PRINCE CHARMING.
APPARENTLY SALES WERE REALLY GOOD FOR THE PICTURES FROM OUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
YOU SELL REALLY WELL, YOU KNOW
WHEN YOU REALLY LIKE SOMEONE...
AAHHP
NOTHING YOU CALL "GOOD" IS.
KAZUHAAA. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD
-SNICKER-
-FLUTTERS?
YOUR HEART FLUTTERS.

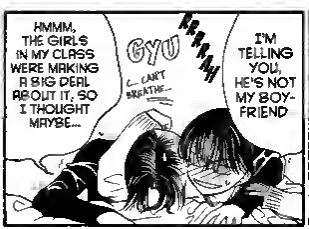

ASAKO SOUNDED UNUSUALLY GIRLY.
SOMETIMES YOU SAY INCREDIBLE THINGS.
HMM, HOW TO EXPLAIN IT?
IT'S LIKE BEING SQUEEZED!
DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?
HE?
WHAT'S SQUEEZED?
YOUR CHEST.
LIKE BEING GROPED?
STUPID
IT WAS FUNNY.

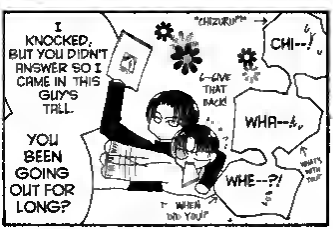

HEY, KAZUHA.
MAYBE...
WHAT?
BUT FUNNY AS IT IS, THE EMBARRASSMENT WON'T GO AWAY.

MAYBE YOU'RE IN WITH LOVE SUGIMOTO-SAN?

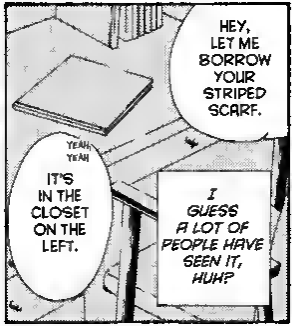
IN LOVE WITH WHO...?
"LOVE"...?
SA-SHA 12
STRATEGY FOR CLOTHES SHOPPING
CHANGING STYLES FOR WINTER!!
LOOK FASHIONABLE WITHOUT A BIG WARDROBE
ENDED UP BUYING IT
—>HA HA!—
HUH?
'CAUSE ASAKO ASKS WEIRD QUESTIONS!
THUMP
SLOW
SLAM
EMOTIONAL JOLT
WHAT SHOULD I BUY?

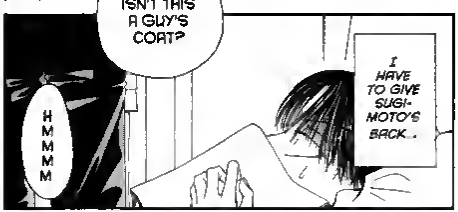
NYOSHI
HMMM. IS THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND, KAZUHA?
DOES HE DYE HIS HAIR AND GET EARRINGS AND SHIT? HMMM.
SA-CA


HMMM, THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS WERE MAKING A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE...
GYU
I CAN'T BREATHE...
I'M TELLING YOU, HE'S NOT MY BOY-FRIEND


I KNOCKED, BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER SO I CAME IN. THIS GUY'S TALL.
YOU BEEN GOING OUT FOR LONG?
"CHIZURU?"
CHI--!
GIVE THAT BACK!
WHA--?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
WHE---?!
WHEN DID YOU?

I WONDER
MAYANN
WHAT'S THIS?
SA-SHA
IF SUGIMOTO WILL SEE IT, TOO?


HEY, LET ME BORROW YOUR STRIPED SCARF.
YEAH YEAH
IT'S IN THE CLOSET ON THE LEFT.
I GUESS A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE SEEN IT, HUH?



HELLO! I'M IHARI HIDAKA. THIS IS MY SEVENTH VOLUME OF HANA TO YUME COMICS. I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE * THANK YOU FOR PICKING IT UP! LATELY IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE COLLECTING THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY SERIES ARE LOOKING AT THE ALREADY PUBLISHED BOOKS AND BEING SURPRISED LIKE "ICHIHISA IS HURT!" AND "REI-CHAN SAYS SUCH MEAN THINGS!" (LOL) (I'M SORRY FOR DRAWING MANGA WHERE THE CHARACTERS GET YOUNGER AND YOUNGER.) ADDING ONE THING TO ANOTHER, IT SEEMS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T READ THE MAGAZINE, SAW THE COVER OF VOLUME ONE AND THOUGHT "REI-CHAN'S WITH A GUY!?" (ROFL) EH HEH HEH

HI
I RAN OUT OF SELF-PORTRAITS IN MY REPERTOIRE SO I TRIED DRAWING ONE WITH MY LEFT HAND. (WHAT?)
WELL THEN, EVERYONE, PLEASE STICK WITH US TO THE END!

<APOLOGY>

I'M SORRY BUT DUE TO OUR PAGE COUNT, THERE WILL BE NO IHARI HIDAKA'S DAILY HEAVEN

IT'S NOT MY FAULT, BUT I STILL FEEL BAD.

I THINK MANY PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO IT AND I'M VERY, VERY SAD THAT I CAN'T DRAW IT

SO I THINK I WILL HAVE A SMALL DAILY HEAVEN IN THESE SIDEBARS

*SHE'S REFERRING TO THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE PUBLICATION

"DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SUGIMOTO-SAN?"
-SIGH-
WHAT'LL I DO WITH THIS?

SHUT
I...I'M BORROWING IT, SORT OF
IT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING!
SO GIVE IT BACK? PLEASE...?

AUGH, I'M NOT EVEN MAKING SENSE ANYMORE!
WHEN YOU THINK HE'S MATURE, HE ACTS LIKE A CHILD, AND TRICKS YOU EVEN MORE!
HE CAN BE A JERK, BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY!
I DON'T GET IT, I DON'T GET IT, I TELL YOU!
DAMMIT, GIVE ME MY HAIR BACK!
GRAAAAH!
SMACK
ROLL ROLL

I WONDER WHY...
I WAS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS WHEN ASAKO SAID THAT.

AH...

IT SMELLS LIKE SUGIMOTO..
SQUEEZE
UGH.
HE'S BAD IN SO MANY WAYS, AND YET...
I CAN'T HATE HIM.
BUDDING MURDEROUS INTENT
BUT I HATE HIM LIKE CRAZY.

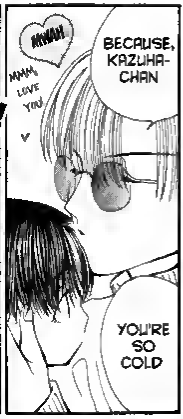
HMPH
HMPH HMPH
HMPH
HMPH
HMPH
HMPH
WHY SHOULD THE VICTIM HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH?
DAMMIT! MAYBE I'LL DOODLE ON THIS COAT WITH PAINT
AUGH, SOMEHOW I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE ANGRY
STILL, SHE'S BUTTONING IT UP AND FOLDING IT
SPROING
ASSAILANT
VICTIM
THE NEXT EVENING
—BY NOW I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT
AH! THIS BUTTON'S LOOSE
TOO TIGHT! I'M BREAKING IT!
KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH KEH
HA, HA, HA. DAMN ASSAILANT, DAMN ASSAILANT.
KEH
MOMURA-CHAN, KAZUHA-CHAN IS ACTING CREEPY
SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT
PERFECT, TOMORROW IS TUESDAY! SUGIMOTO WON'T BE ABLE TO LOOK ME IN THE EYE! ENJOY THE GUILT TRIP YOU BOOKED FOR YOURSELF!
SAKURA DAYCARE

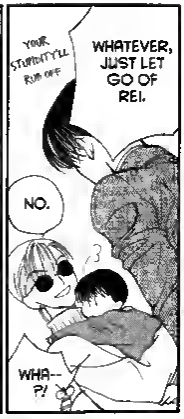
YES.
AH!
KAZUHA.
♡
THAT THE ONE I WAS DEALING WITH ...
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
...WAS NONE OTHER THAN SUGIMOTO!!
KAZUHA-CHAAN
KYA-KYA
WELL, SHALL WE BE OFF?
DON'T YOU EVER REGRET ANYTHING!?
MAYBE I LACK A SENSE OF MORALITY.
EVEN WORSE!
AT THE MOB

KAZUHA
...IT MAKES ME LOOK STUPID FOR WORRYING ABOUT IT!
TURN
HOW CAN HE LOOK SO NONCHALANT?!
PATTY CAKE, PATTY CAKE~
WHAT THE HELL DOES HE THINK MY MOUTH IS?
WHY ARE YOU SO FAR AWAY?
SCOOT, SCOOT, SCOOT
AH, DON'T MOVE AWAY
ALMOST 2 YARDS
BECAUSE I SENSE DANGER!
UH OH.
NO!
RAR
WHO WOULD GO ANYWHERE ON YOUR INVITATION ?!
HEY, MY BUDDIES ARE HAVING A PARTY FOR MIZUSHIMA-CHAN NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT.
YOU SHOULD COME, TOO, KAZUHA.
DO YOU REALIZE I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU?
WELL, YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL.
UPSY DAISY!
YOU JERK

MIZUSHIMA SMILE
YOU SHOULD BRING A FRIEND, KAZUHA-CHAN.
SMILE
HE'S CALLING IT A PARTY, BUT WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE FUN WITH A SMALL GROUP.
THE MORE THE MERRIER.
AWW, WELL HE IS HELPFUL WITH CLEANING AND MAKING PAPER CHAINS...
I'M BEGGING YOU, PLEASE GET A RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST THAT PERVERT!
PAPER CHAIN
THAT'S ALL I AM TO YOU, ISN'T IT, MIZUSHIMA-CHAN?
MMM, I DON'T KNOW...
-HUFF-
-HUFF-
YOU'RE A VILLAIN DISGUISED AS A GOOD GUY...
MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI!
HUH? YOU WON'T COME, KAZUHA-CHAN?
UM, WELL, THEN MAYBE I WILL GO.
HEY! SO YOU JUST LISTEN TO WHATEVER MIZUSHIMA-CHAN SAYS WITHOUT BACK-TALK?
-HUFF-
WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOU'LL BE JUST AS BEAUTIFUL AS KAZUHA-CHAN. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
REI-KUN, YOU'RE MY ONLY FRIEND.
FINE, FINE.
P 'KAY
SNIFFLE
REI IS A BOY!
AND DON'T ANSWER HIM, EH?
IT'S 'CAUSE HE'S NICER
HMPH!
HMPH!

MUKA
STOP KISSING HIM, DAMMIT!
DON'T TAKE YOUR GOOFING OFF TOO FAR, JERK.


MMMH
MMM, LOVE YOU! ♥
BECAUSE, KAZUHA-CHAN
YOU'RE SO COLD


YOUR STUPIDITY'LL RUB OFF
WHATEVER, JUST LET GO OF REI.
NO.
WHA--?!

THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS! MY FIRST KISS!!
A FIRST KISS: THAT THING GIRLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY DREAM ABOUT, DAMMIT!!
BOMMMMMB
I WIPE A THIRST FOR BLOOD.
BOMMMMMB
AND YET YOU! YOU!

SO WHAT?
YOU MEAN THAT A KISS OR TWO OR THREE OR ETC. MEANS NOTHING TO YOU? WELL?!
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I FEEL, YOU UPSETTING ME LIKE THIS?!
MUKA MUKA MUKA MUKA MUKA MUKA
IS THIS REALLY FOR US, THEN?
MIZUSHIMA-CHAN, YOU'RE COMING AFTER WORK, RIGHT?
WE'LL START WITHOUT YOU.

KOKIKE
EH?
KA...
W... YOU WERE KILLING ME? IN MY RM...
KA... KAJAH
KAZUMA-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...?
KICK
GUEH!
GAHAH!
GUHOH!
DIE, DIE, DIE AND GO TO HELL!
KICK
KICK
KICK
KICK
KICK
REACT!
REACT!
OH, MY!

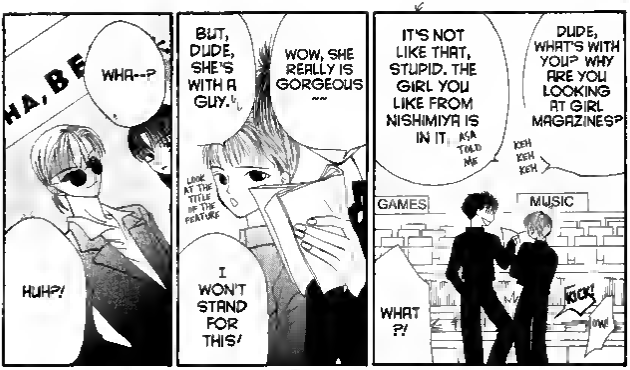
HERE
SAVING IN
THE COAT I BORROWED.
!

KAZUHA.
OH, THIS ONE HAD A BUTTON COMING LOOSE DIDN'T IT?
HM.
I FIXED IT.
AND THANKS FOR LOANING IT TO ME.
HOW DARE I LEND YOU THAT ONE
EH?/
REALLY?
THUMP
YOU KNOW, KAZUHA-CHAN.
THANK YOU.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
AH/ HE WAS BOTHERED BY IT/
IT WAS SO SUDDEN, IT MUST HAVE STARTLED YOU.
BUT.
I'M SERIOUS.
SUGI...
ABOUT YOU.
THUMP
"YOUR HEART FLUTTERS"

UHYAAAHH!
WHAP!
BOTTOM OF BAG
BONK-ONG-ONG
UM.. KAZUHA-CHA...
ERK!
UWAAAAAAHHHH!
TAKE CHAP
ROLL...
EH?! WHA, WHERE?! THE BLUE BIRD OF..
WHAT?!
AH! THE BLUEBIRD OF SAPPINESS!
URAAAHH!
KAPOW!
TAKE THAT!

DUNNO.
... I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT...
THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WEEK...
AWW... SHE LEFT...
SA-SHI
ARATA--! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS! HERE!
OH, TAKASAKI!


HA, BE
WHA--?
HUH?
BUT, DUDE, SHE'S WITH A GUY.
WOW, SHE REALLY IS GORGEOUS ~~
LOOK AT THE TITLE OF THE FEATURE
I WON'T STAND FOR THIS!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, STUPID. THE GIRL YOU LIKE FROM NISHIMIYA IS IN IT.
AYA TOLD ME
DUDE, WHAT'S WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT GIRL MAGAZINES?
KEH KEH KEH
GAMES
MUSIC
WHAT ?!
KICK!
OW!

THIS IS MAKI, ISN'T IT?

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER'S 2

(WHAT HAPPENED TO DUMMY MAKI NUMBER 3)

IT WOULD SEEM THAT MY READERS WONDER ABOUT THE "LIFE-SIZED DUMMY, MAKI-CHAN NUMBER 3" MADE BY SUGIMOTO THAT SHOWED UP IN CHAPTER 2 (VOLUME 1), AND WHETHER KAZUHA BROUGHT IT HOME WITH HER. MY GUESS (HEY, AUTHORS) IS THAT IT'S PROBABLY BEEN SHOVED INTO THE TRUNK OF SUGIMOTO'S CAR. (LAUGH). SCARY, ISN'T IT? I'M SURE THAT DAY, AFTER IT SHOWED UP, KAZUHA...

--PROBABLY FORCEFULLY JAMMED IT INTO THE TRUNK LIKE THAT (LAUGH). ONE DAY, WHEN HE POPS OUT OF THE TRUNK LIKE A JACK-IN-THE-BOX, PLEASE SAY, "OH...HE WAS IN THERE AFTER ALL..."

(WHAT HAPPENED TO DUMMY MAKI-CHAN NUMBER'S 1 AND 2)

...GOOD QUESTION. I FEEL LIKE HE PROBABLY COULDN'T THROW THEM AWAY AND KEEPS THEM IN HIS CLOSET.

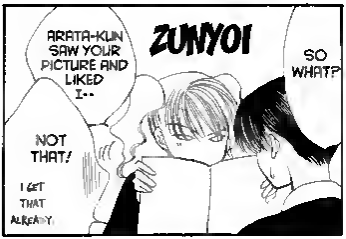
OH YEAH, MIKAKO-SAN CAN I CONFIRM MY DAY'S OFF?
THE SALON IS CLOSED NEXT WEDNESDAY...
..SO I CAN TAKE BOTH TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY OFF, RIGHT?
OH, SHE'S NOT?
HEH.
I LOVE HER SO MUCH~
IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF SHE WAS MY GIRL-FRIEND.
WHOA, MAKI-SAN'S IN A MAGAZINE!
ETHNIC HAIRDRESSERS
LET ME SEE!
SHE'S SO GUARDED.
OH, MY!
WE'RE HAVING A PARTY FOR MIZUSHIMA-CHAN AT HONJO'S PLACE.
I FIGURED I'D JUST STAY THE NIGHT.
ARE YOU GOING OUT, TOO, MAKI-CHAN?
IT'S A GOOD THING I CHECKED
WE'RE GOING SOME-WHERE?
SALON MANAGER
RIGHT, YUKI-KUN
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF MY GRAND-FATHER'S DEATH, SO WE'RE GOING OUT AS A COUPLE
TOTALLY LAID-BACK COUPLE
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WE'LL DO SOMETHING A ROMANTIC
...
...I WONDER WHAT HONJO-KUN...
STOP
...WILL SAY WHEN HE SEES THIS.
BUT...
WE'RE A PUNK KID TRIO.
YOU THREE ARE AS CLOSE AS EVER.
HA HA HA
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

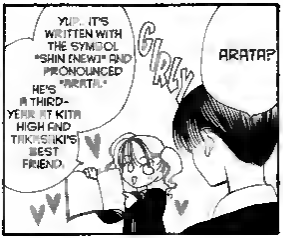
SNICKER
I SAW IT, TOO—THAT MAGAZINE THAT GIRL IS REALLY PRETTY.
OH, I'M SO SORRY I ABANDONED YOU
YOU'RE ALL LAUGHING AT ME.
ISN'T SHE LOVELY?
SHE'S EVEN PRETTIER WITH SHORT HAIR.
THE SILVER-TONGUED DEVIL...
HELLO!
WELCOME!
THAT MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST.
I'M NOT GOING TO THINK ABOUT THAT.
WHAT?
TO HAVE A GOOD-LOOKING GUY LIKE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH HER...
IN HIS MIND, SHE'S ALWAYS ANGRY.
SHE MUST BE VERY HAPPY.

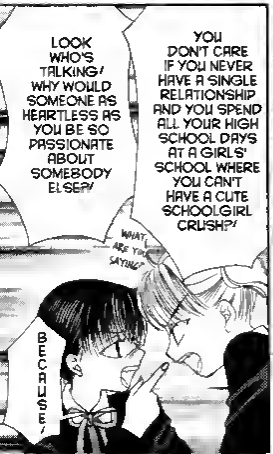
IF ONLY A PHOTO COULD SHOW WHAT WAS IN A PERSON'S HEART, TOO.
AH...
ACHOO!
I WONDER IF I CAUGHT SENKO'S COLD.
AUGH
I'VE GOT THE CHILLS.
CHILL
CHILL
MIKANI!
ICHIHISA
HOW RUDE! MORE LIKELY, YOUR BROTHER ICHIHISA IS SPREADING WEIRD RUMORS ABOUT YOU!
THAT'S POSSIBLE.
UUUUGH
WELL, THE MOST LIKELY REASON IS THAT I STAYED OUT LATE THINKING ON THE VERANDA LAST NIGHT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, KAZUHA!

NUDGE
KA!
WHAT, SHE ASKS
COUGH
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DO YOU HAVE TIME TO BE SO CALM?
ZU.
GIRLY.
HA
CHANN.
MAYBE SHE'S THE REASON FOR YOUR CHILLS?
COUGH
NOTHING GOOD COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH IN THAT SUGARY VOICE.
HMM.
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YET.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
BLUNT.
NO.
I'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE

AND SOOO, NEXT SUNDAY, I'D LIKE YOU TO GO OUT WITH US FOR JUUUUUST A LITTLE BIT--
TEE HEE.
OH, KAZUHA-CHAN! YOU'RE SO NAUGHTY!
ACTUALLYYY, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK...
SO SHE ADMITS IT SHE ADMITTED IT, JUST LIKE THAT...
WELL, WHAT IS IT?
ARATA-KUN SAW YOUR PICTURE AND REALLY LIKED IT, AND HE SAYS HE REEEEEALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU--
WHO?
ARATA-KUN.
THE SINFUL WOMAN


ARATA-KUN SAW YOUR PICTURE AND LIKED I--
ZUNYOI
SO WHAT?
NOT THAT!
I GET THAT ALREADY.


YUP. IT'S WRITTEN WITH THE SYMBOL "SHIN (NEW)" AND PRONOUNCED "ARATA."
HE'S A THIRD-YEAR AT KITA HIGH AND TAKASUKI'S BEST FRIEND.
GIRLS
ARATA?


LOOK WHO'S TALKING! WHY WOULD SOMEONE AS HEARTLESS AS YOU BE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT SOMEBODY ELSE?!
YOU DON'T CARE IF YOU NEVER HAVE A SINGLE RELATIONSHIP AND YOU SPEND ALL YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS AT A GIRLS' SCHOOL WHERE YOU CAN'T HAVE A CUTE SCHOOLGIRL CRUSH?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BECAUSE!

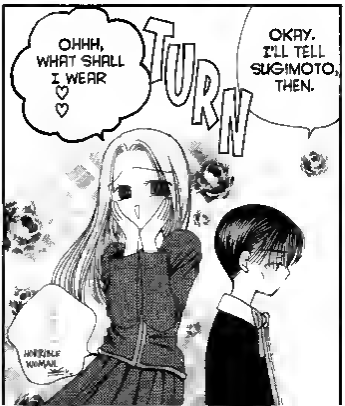
FIDGET
JUST BECAUSE I MEET HIM DOESN'T MEAN WE'LL HAVE ANYTHING TO TALK ABOUT, AND I DON'T KNOW HIM SO, NO.
NO, I DON'T LIKE THAT STUFF.
EEHH?

WHY?
WHY?
WHY NOT?
"WHY"...?
ANYWAY, NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT.
DON'T SELL YOUR FRIENDS FOR FOOD.
DIRTY RAT
ARATA-KUN BOUGHT ME A PARFAIT.
THANKS.
YOU WERE THE ONE SAYING THAT WEIRD STUFF YESTERDAY, ASAKO.
"MAYBE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SUGIMOTO-SAN?"
I REALIZED HOW I REALLY FEEL.
AND WORSE

...MAKE IT SEEM LIKE THAT'S WHAT'S GOING ON.
NNGH
...BUT IT'S TRUE THAT HE'S ON MY MIND, AND THERE ARE THINGS THAT
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?! AFTER THINKING AND THINKING OUT IN THE COLD LAST NIGHT, THIS IS YOUR CONCLUSION? ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT, KAZUHA?!
DOUBTING HERSELF
TO THINK I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MAN I HATE MORE THAN ANYONE IN THE WORLD!!
UWAAA

THEN YOU LIKE THE ONE WHO WAS YOUR FIRST KISS?! NO! IT'S OUT OF ORDER! THE ORDER'S ALL WRONG! THAT STUPID IDIOT!
DON'T KISS ME BEFORE I KNOW!
WAAAAHH! STUPID KAZUHA! I'M BEING SO HUMBLE, HERE!
SNAP
OW!
...I KINDA HATE TO ADMIT IT. IN THE END, SUGIMOTO GOT HIS WAY.
SQUEEZE
KAZUHAAA! KAZUHAAA! PLEEEEASE DO ASA-CHO A FAVOO-ORRR!

EVILEST LITTLE SISTER TYPE



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "A GUY LIKE HIM?!"
SHE SAYS SHE'S GOING OUT WITH HER BOYFRIEND.
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO GO TO A PARTY JUST 'CAUSE A GUY LIKE HIM IS GETTING MARRIED?
TAKE ACHAKO OR SOMEONE ♡
HEH.
MORE AND MORE I DON'T
AGH!

I WONDER IF SHE FELT LIKE THIS THE WHOLE TIME...
WHAT?
SENKO LIKES SUGIMOTO, TOO.
SINCE LONG BEFORE I DID.
IS IT OKAY IF I STAY THE NIGHT AT YOUR PLACE?
ON TUESDAY.
DON'T DROOL ON THE PILLOW, GOT IT?
RAR!
YOUR EYES ARE IN PUPPY-DOG MODE!
GOT IT. I'LL TRY MY BEST.
SLEEP WITH YOUR EYES OPEN!
YESSS.
?
HM?

YOU'RE NOT ACTING SO COOL BECAUSE YOU ALREADY DID IT?
I FORGOT, OF COURSE!!
PERSON WHOSE HEAD HAS BEEN FULL OF SUGIMOTO LATELY
OH YEAH, I'VE BEEN WONDERING... ...WHAT IS THAT ON YOUR DESK THAT YOU'RE WORKING ON?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ACTUALLY STUDYING!
BUT TO SENKO, IT MIGHT BE LIKE HAVING SOMETHING PRECIOUS STOLEN FROM HER.
PANIC
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE HAD GOBS OF MATH HOMEWORK, REMEMBER?
EH?
I WAS OUT FOR A FEW DAYS WITH A COLD, SO I COULDN'T WORK ON IT AT ALL.
TEE HEE ♡
I HAVE A WONDERFUL MATH NOTE-BOOK HERE.
MATH II B
CLASS 2-B, ASAKO ISHIZUKA
ASAKO!!
YOU'RE A GODDESS
Aaaaaa! I DON'T WANT TO LOSE POINTS!
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CHATTER, THEN GET TO WORK!
STEP
HEH, HEH, HEH. YOU DAMSELS IN DISTRESS, THERE
HEY! GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
UWAAAAHH! SENKOOOO! I'M IN TROUBLE!
IF I COME CLOSER, I'LL SEE THAT WORRIED LOOK ON SENKO'S FACE, PARTICULARLY TENDING TO PANIC
PRONE TO PANIC

--THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS--

MAKE SURE YOU KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR SCHEDULE.

I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE IN THIS BOOK (VOLUME 2) KAZUHA IS STUCK IN NEUTRAL. EVERY TIME SOMETHING HAPPENS SHE EITHER FEELS BETTER OR GETS DEPRESSED. PLEASE DON'T SAY, "DIDN'T SHE RECOVER LAST TIME?" BECAUSE AS LONG AS THERE IS EVEN A HINT OF ANXIETY WHEN YOU START TO THINK ABOUT IT, YOU COULD GET BUMMED OUT OVER AND OVER AGAIN. AND KAZUHA IS TOTALLY OBSESSIVE. GAHAH. GAHAH. COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE IS A MONTH (TWO MAGAZINE RELEASES WORTH) OF TIME BETWEEN CHAPTER 6 AND CHAPTER 7. (BECAUSE THERE WAS A SPECIAL EDITION AND STUFF.)

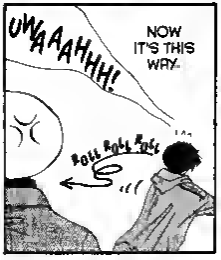
AND SO I WAS AMUSED TO GET LETTERS THAT SAID "FOR A WHOLE MONTH IN MY HEAD SUGIMOTO AND KAZUHA JUST KEPT KISSING!" (I'M SORRY.)

IT HIT ME
I'M VERY EXCITED!
FOR PEOPLE WHO ONLY READ THE COMICS, FOR FOUR WHOLE MONTHS...!?
(AND WHEN YOU OPEN VOLUME 3, THERE RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, HE'S FRENCHING HER. I'M REALLY SORRY.)

BEHIND-THE-SCENES STORY

KAZUHA HAS BECOME A HAIRDRESSER, AS "A SYMBOL OF HER LOVE," AND IS TEACHING TECHNIQUES TO ASAKO (A CHARACTER IN ANOTHER SERIES), BUT THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD, IS THERE? ACTUALLY, ACCORDING TO NAMI, SET IT UP A LONG TIME AGO. KAZUHA WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL AND GONE OFF TO BE A HAIRDRESSER, BUT... (WHAT A RECKLESS STORY.) I'LL MAKE SURE TO HAVE HER GRADUATE. THERE ARE A LOT OF CONTRADICTIONS, SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

THEY PROBABLY DIDN'T HAVE STICKER CLUB MACHINES AROUND THEN.



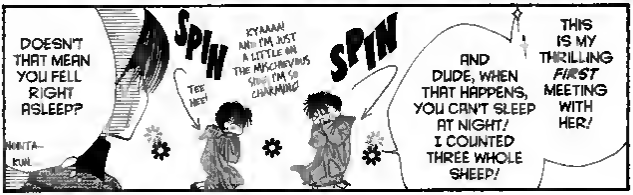
FLINCH
HOLD IT!
?!
EXASPERATING
HN.
STEP ON IT, FAST.
STEP
OR ELSE.
YOINK
THEN...
PICK IT UP RIGHT AWAY.
IT'LL FALL INTO A CRACK!

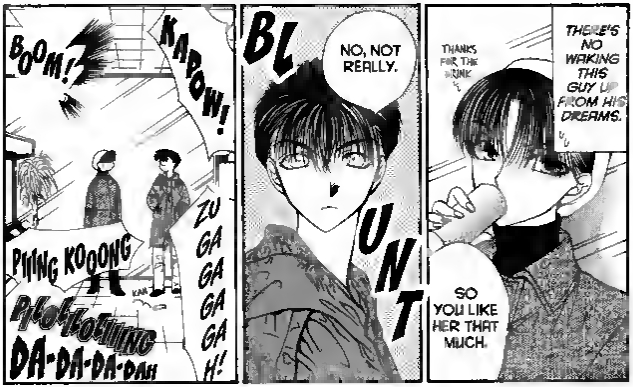
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT SO PLAINLY LIKE THAT.
BUT HEY...
N..NOSY. WELL, I DID POKE MY NOSE INTO THIS GUY'S BUSINESS WHEN I DON'T KNOW HIM, SO OF COURSE HE'D THINK THAT, BUT...
NOSY?!
SHOOT
WOW, YOU'RE NOSY.
ALL RIGHT, I LIKE YOU!
MY TREAT. HAVE A DRINK, TOO!
EH?
NO YOU DON'T HAVE TO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
OH..
LOOKS LIKE...
HE'S A NICE KID
GRIN
WHAT? YOU'RE STILL COMPLAINING?
THANKS
YOU'RE A NICE KID

AH, YEAH.
A GIRL?
YEAH.
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE.
YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
HE'S REALLY KIND-HEARTED.
PSSHH
REALLY?
GIRLS PROBABLY DON'T COUNT.
...NO, NOT AT ALL.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
STARE
HMM.
HEY, I BET YOU'RE PRETTY POPULAR.
WHAM
HAH. THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY.
IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR A GUY AS HANDSOME AS YOU TO TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT
H.. HAND-SOME GUY?
O, OW!
WHAM WHAM
?
CHANGE MACHINES
BUT LOTS OF PEOPLE'VE BEEN TURNING AROUND TO LOOK AT YOU FOR A WHILE.
WHA--? THEY'RE NOT LOOKING AT YOU?
YOU'RE PROBABLY POPULAR YOURSELF

I DON'T WANT TO EMBARRASS HIM, SO I'LL LET HIM KEEP THINKING THAT
HANDSOME, HUH?
SINCE I CUT MY HAIR, SUGIMOTO IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD SAY I'M CUTE..
HE THINKS I'M A GUY?!
OF COURSE
IF I WERE A CHICK, I'D TOTALLY FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU
HA HA HA
TH... THANKS...
ARRHH! ME TOO, ME TOO! I WAS SO WORKED UP, I WANTED TO GET HERE ASAP
WE'RE THE SAME
YOU MEETING YOUR GIRLFRIEND HERE?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME EARLY
GIRL-FRIEND?
YOUR GIRL-FRIEND SURE IS LATE, HUH?
ER, ACTUALLY, I CAME TOO EARLY
SOME-THING WRONG?
NO, NOTH-ING...
--ERK, WHY DOES HIS NAME HAVE TO COME UP?
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE
SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH ME

SHE'S A WONDERFUL GIRL WHOSE FANTASY IS TO PLAY TAG ON THE BEACH WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M ONE TO SAY THIS, BUT SHE HAS A KIND HEART. SHE'S GRACEFUL...
HEH
PLEASE, LISTEN TO THIS! I MEAN, JUST LISTEN!
BUT YOU'VE NEVER MET HER.
ANOTHER SENPAI?
HY
I'VE ONLY SEEN HER IN PICTURES, BUT SHE'S SUPER GORGEOUS--
DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF.

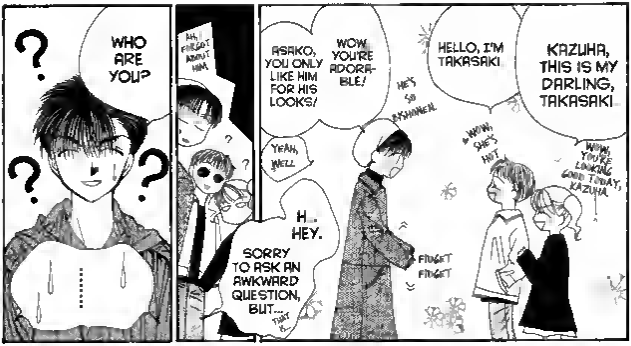

DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU FELL RIGHT ASLEEP?
MINTA-KUN
SPIN
TEE HEE!
KYAAAAH AND I'M JUST A LITTLE BIT MISCHIEVOUS TOO! I'M SO CHARMING!
SPIN
AND DUDE, WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT! I COUNTED THREE WHOLE SHEEP!
THIS IS MY THRILLING FIRST MEETING WITH HER!

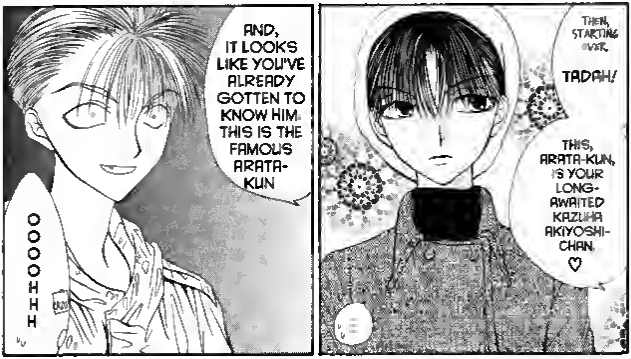

BOOM!
KABOW!
ZU GA GA GA GA H!
PING KOOONG
DA-DA-DA-DAH
BL
UNT
NO, NOT REALLY.
THANKS FOR THE MUSIC
THERE'S NO WAKING THIS GUY UP FROM HIS DREAMS.
SO YOU LIKE HER THAT MUCH.

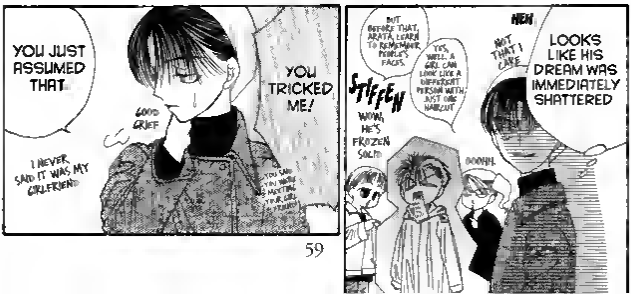
THEN WHAT WAS ALL THAT HYPERACTIVITY JUST NOW?
FEEONG
THAT WAS, YOU KNOW.
FIRST I HAVE TO MEET HER AND MAKE SURE.
I CAN'T GET A BEAT ON THIS GUY
?
MAKE SURE OF WHAT?
WHAT SHE'S LIKE INSIDE.
HAVEN'T YOU EVER TALKED TO SOMEONE AND THEN THOUGHT, "AH, SHE'S KINDA COOL"?
LIKE YOU'RE HAPPY TO BE AROUND HER
THERE ARE PLENTY OF CUTE GIRLS OR PRETTY GIRLS.
A GIRL THAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN.
I WANT A GIRL LIKE THAT
BUT I WON'T TAKE JUST ANYONE SO I CAN SAY I HAVE SOMEONE
I WANT MY GIRLFRIEND TO BE SOME-ONE I REALLY LIKE

IF I ONLY SEE HER IN PICTURES, SHE'S THE SAME AS A CELEBRITY IN A MAGAZINE, YOU KNOW?
WOW...
YOU'RE PRETTY COOL.
SERIOUSLY? DON'T FALL FOR ME
I COULD SEE US BEING FRIENDS.
IT'S THAT, YOU KNOW
WELL, FROM GUYS, OBVIOUSLY
I'M ALWAYS GETTING, "I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU FOREVER, ARATA-KUN."
ARATA..?
EH?/ "ARATA"? ..YOU MEAN

WHAM!
WAH!
ASAKO!
TAKASAKI!
STICK
WHY YOU!
EHP
IT'S PAST TWO!
YOU'RE LATE, ASAKO!
SORRY, SORRY, MY BIKE GOT A FLAT.
AH...UM, JUST A MINUTE.
'CAUSE YOU'RE A FATTIE.
YEAH, TAKASAKI'S A FATTIE.
EEEHP? I AM?


WHO ARE YOU?
AH, FORGOT ABOUT HIM.
ASAKO, YOU ONLY LIKE HIM FOR HIS LOOKS!
WOW, YOU'RE ADORABLE!
HE'S SO AVAILABLE!
HELLO, I'M TAKASAKI.
KAZUHA, THIS IS MY DARLING, TAKASAKI.
YEAH, WELL.
WOW, SHE'S HOT.
WOW, YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD TODAY, KAZUHA.
H... HEY.
SORRY TO ASK AN AWKWARD QUESTION, BUT...
FIDGET FIDGET


AND, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TO KNOW HIM. THIS IS THE FAMOUS ARATA-KUN
OOOOHHH
THEN, STARTING OVER.
TADAH!
THIS, ARATA-KUN, IS YOUR LONG-AWAITED KAZUHA AKIYOSHI-CHAN. ♡


YOU JUST ASSUMED THAT.
GOOD GRIEF
I NEVER SAID IT WAS MY GIRLFRIEND!
YOU TRICKED ME!
YOU CAN INVITE YOU-KNOW-WHO TO MEETING TO LEARN TO DANCE.
BUT BEFORE THAT, ARATA, LEARN TO REMEMBER PEOPLE'S FACES.
STIFFEN
WOW, HE'S FROZEN SOLID!
YES, WELL A GIRL CAN LOOK LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON WITH JUST ONE HAIRCUT.
HEH
NOT THAT I CARE.
LOOKS LIKE HIS DREAM WAS IMMEDIATELY SHATTERED
OOOHH.

GROPE
HEY, DO YOU REALLY HAVE BOOBS?
OH, SHE DOESN'T
I DON'T CARE!
WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY DREAM?!
AHHH, MY DREAM...
"MAKI"? YOU KNOW SUGIMOT.
A BEAUTIFUL GIRL ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME... EH HEH...
SIGH...
THAT'S RIGHT. MAKI WASN'T MUCH TALLER
EH?
Ano?
KaPow!

TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
ROGER. THAT
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO US.
AARHH, SHE TOTALLY SNAPPED.
NATURALLY
FUME FUME
AFTER A KNEE IN THE GROIN
W...WAS THAT REALLY THE GIRL FROM THE PICTURES?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
I TOLD YOU-- KAZUHA.
I SEE! IT WAS A DREAM?!
ALRIGHT, GOT IT!
HA HA HA. I'M DREAMING RIGHT NOW!
LONG LIVE DREAMS! YAHOO!
ARATA.. I LOVE HOW YOU HAVE YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS...
..BUT THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GET A GIRLFRIEND.
LISTEN TO ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "EXPECTED" ASA-CHAN
AS EXPECTED OF TAKANO'S BEST FRIEND
WHAT IS WITH THAT DROOPY-EYED PUNK? HE'S RUDER THAN SUGIMOTO!!
HUFF
HUFF
SUGI-MOTO WOULD HAVE TREATED ME MORE ...

I SEE ...

WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT
WHOOOAA, OUR THRILLING FIRST MEETING!
KYAAAH
IF ONLY HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION.
OH, IT'S OKAY. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, ASAKO.
AND ARATA-KUN'S NOT A BAD GUY.
THIS GUY
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

IT'S 'CAUSE SUGIMOTO SEES ME AS A GIRL...

I'M REALLY SORRY..
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
YEAH, GOOD NIGHT.
BEEP
ARE YOU ANGRY?!
KAZUMA, I'M REALLY SORRY! YOU'RE OFFENDED, AREN'T YOU?!

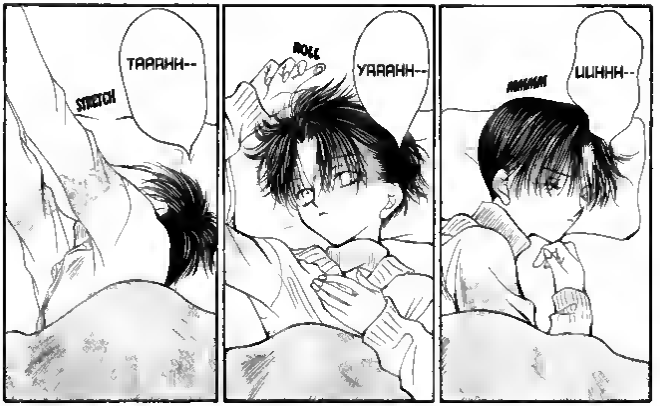
BEEP
WHAT IS IT, ASAKO? YOU STILL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?
I'M SORRY TO CALL SO LATE.
MY NAME IS SUGIMOTO. MAY I SPEAK TO KAZUKA-SAN?
OH, SUGIMOTO
JUMP
RA RA
SIGH
I LOOKED IT UP IN THE DAISCHIKE ROSTER AT MIZUSHIMA-CHAN'S HOUSE WITHOUT ASKING
FOR SOME REASON, SITTING UPRIGHT
U... UWAHH! SUGIMOTO'S VOICE, RIGHT IN MY EAR~~
ISN'T THAT ILLEGAL?
HOW RUDE
M.. MY VOICE IS SHAKING
H-HOW DID YOU GET MY NUMBER?
OH, SO IT IS YOU, KAZUKA-CHAN?
SUGI-MOTO !?
YOU SOUND SO FAR AWAY
WAAAAAAH
BAH
BECAUSE MY OLDER BROTHER AND HIS WIFE LIVE AT OUR PARENTS' HOUSE
EH? NO WAY. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
WOW, YOU HAVE A OLDER BROTHER.
IT'S NEWS TO ME
OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I'M AT HOME.
I'M DONE WITH WORK.
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN YOUR HOUSE?
I LIVE BY MYSELF.
FOR SOME REASON, TRIVIAL SUBJECTS POUR OUT OF HER MOUTH.
WH... WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
DON'T YOU HAVE WORK?
EEEEEEEEEEK!

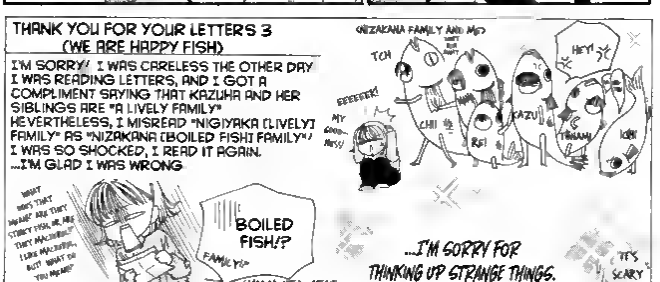
HEY, ON TUESDAY, SENKO'S COMING WITH ME IS THAT OKAY?
UM.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE TALKED TO SUGIMOTO LIKE THIS. I'M KIND OF NERVOUS.
YES, THAT'S WHAT I CALLED ABOUT.
SENKO-CHAN, RIGHT? OF COURSE IT'S OKAY
WHAT? I DIDN'T MENTION THAT? I HAVE ANOTHER BROTHER, IN THE MIDDLE. I'M THE YOUNGEST OF THREE
YOU'VE MET HIM, HAVEN'T YOU, KAZUHA-CHAN? THE WEIRD GUY AT THE SALON. THAT'S HIM.
Y. YOU DON'T LOOK A THING ALIKE
DAZE
WHAT-- NOT MY TYPE.
YOU SHORTS IN!
GIGGLE
BECAUSE I TAKE AFTER MY MOTHER.
THAT'S HIS BROTHER!?
...I SEE. HE WAS BEING CONSIDERATE OF ME.
SO IT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN IF YOU HAD TO GO HOME RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?
WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER.
I'LL PICK YOU UP
WAIT FOR ME IN FRONT OF THE DAYCARE AT SIX-THIRTY.
WHAT TIME IS YOUR CURFEW, KAZUHA?
HER FAMILY IS REALLY LAID BACK
OH, I'LL BE STAYING THE NIGHT AT SENKO'S PLACE, SO IT'S FINE.
OH, THAT'S GOOD THEN.

AUGH, FINE, I'M ALWAYS VERY UNLADYLIKE!
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! I'M HANGING UP!
KYAA! WAIT A SECOND!
YOU HAVE WORK TOMORROW, DON'T YOU! GO TO BED! BED!
WAAH!
SILENCE...
? WHAT ?
NO, YOU'RE JUST UNUSUALLY HUMBLE.
IT'S CUTE.
GR!
WHISPER
TH-
THANK YOU.
CHUCKLE
I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN.
GOODNIGHT.
'NIGHT.

CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
IT'S KIND OF...
...A WEIRD FEELING.
PLOP
どがあん
KATOOOOW!
WHY YOU LITTLE...! HOW DARE YOU STAND AROUND EAVES-DROPPING ON ME!!
WE WERE SITTING EAVES-DROPPING.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
HEY, ALL OF YOU! BE QUIET!
GASP
MIMO
ICHI
OBSERVERS
"I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN GOOD-NIGHT."
KYA!
"NIGHT."
SWAY

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!


TAAAHH--
STRETCH
YAAAHH--
ROLL
UUHHH--
AHHHH
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR ROLLING AROUND ON SOMEONE ELSE'S FLOOR.
HEY, DON'T STEP ON PEOPLE'S FACES!
AND YOUR FEET ARE COMING OUT THE OTHER SIDE.
'CAUSE YOU TAKE SO LONG GETTING READY!
OW!
SHUT UP.
SWOOSH


THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 3
(WE ARE HAPPY FISH)
I'M SORRY! I WAS CARELESS THE OTHER DAY I WAS READING LETTERS, AND I GOT A COMPLIMENT SAYING THAT KAZUHA AND HER SIBLINGS ARE "A LIVELY FAMILY" NEVERTHELESS, I MISREAD "NIGIYAKA (LIVELY) FAMILY" AS "NIZAKANA (BOILED FISH) FAMILY"! I WAS SO SHOCKED, I READ IT AGAIN. ...I'M GLAD I WAS WRONG
<NIZAKANA FAMILY AND ME>
TCH
HEY!
BEEEEEP!
MY GOOD... NESS!
CHU
KAZU
TAKAMI
ICHI
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? ARE THEY STRICT YOU, OR ARE THEY INCREDIBLY LIKE KAZUHA, BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BOILED FISH!?
FAMILY>
<MY MENTAL STATE
<- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...I'M SORRY FOR THINKING UP STRANGE THINGS.
IT'S SCARY

ARE YOU COOL WITH TAKING ME?
OH, THAT?
WELL, YOU KNOW, IT WOULD BE AWKWARD GOING BY MYSELF.
I ACTUALLY FEEL BAD DRAGGING YOU ALONG, SENKO.
UGH, YOU'RE SLOW!
NOT THAT.
LOOK AT THIS! A PRESENT FOR SENSEI AND MANAMI ♥
I DON'T CARE WHO THE PARTY IS FOR.
HOOO HO HO HO, WELL, I DO GET TO SEE MY SUGIMOTO.
TODAY, I AM A SUPER-MODEL!
LOOKING LIKE THIS, MY SUGIMOTO WILL FALL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR ME.
S... SENKO, YOU'RE GOING IN THAT SHIRT COAT...?
MY SUGIMOTO, IS IT...?
THINKS SENKO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT HER FEELINGS.
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN THIS SIDE OF SENKO.
SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW SERIOUS SHE IS.
ALL YOU HAVE IS AN-CHANTIMAL
LOVE THIS TABLE!
YAWN
YAWN
AND THERE'S STUFF LIKE "ADMIRATION," LIKE WHEN I LIKED MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI.

IF I END UP FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON MY FRIEND'S INTO...
IT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY.
HEY, KAZUHA.
I FORGOT THAT THE CLOCK IN THIS ROOM IS TEN MINUTES SLOW
6 20
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET AT 6:30...
--WHICH MEANS.
SO YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP AND GET THAT CLOCK FIXED!!
GYAA
OH, QUIET! JUST LOOK AT YOUR WATCH!
GYAA
HEY, YOU TWO, I'M OVER HERE!
MY, YOU'RE GETTING ALONG.
SUGIMOTO-SAN, LONG TIME, NO ♡ SEE. ♡ ♡
MMMM
OH, SENKO-CHAN. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
GYU!
OH, EVERY TIME I SEE IT, HIS FACE IS SO LOVELY.
YOU'VE STOLEN MY HEART, YOU HATEFUL MAN
♡ BROKEN
SENKO-CHAN..
YOUR HAIR..
OOH!
WHAT? WHAT?
GULP!

BUT THAT DRESS IS LOVELY.
I THINK THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN POSITIVE THINKING AND REALLY GETTING THE WRONG IMPRESSION.
HEH. HEH HEH HEH... NOT ONLY DID HE CARE ABOUT MY HAIR, BUT HE INVITED ME TO THE SALON...
YOU DID IT, KENJI!
KAITO'S ARE SO CUTE...
AH, IT'S TIME
I CAN SEE IT'S DAMAGED. YOU SHOULD COME IN FOR A TREATEMENT.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO USE THE BLOW DRYER TOO MUCH
AH, FATAL BLOW
DAMAGED?!
HE DOESN'T FORGET HIS FOLLOW-UP.
HURRY AND GET IN, YOU TWO.
RED AS A TOMAT...
OH YEAH, SENKO.
WHEN WE GET IN THE CAR...

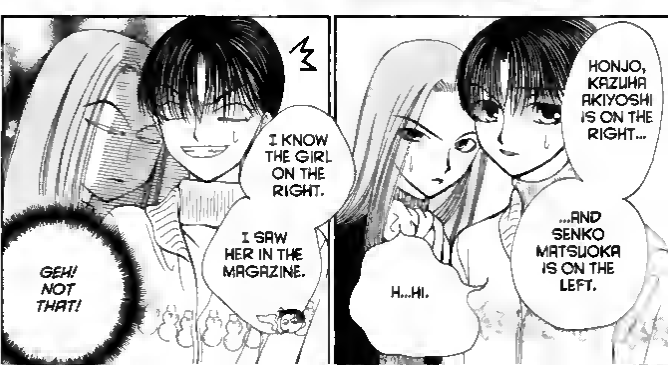
WHOOOAA! THERE'S SOME-THING IN MY EYE!
WHOOSH
WAS IT AN ILLUSION ?!
KAZUMA! WE'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
ARE YOU OKAY WITH TAKING ME?

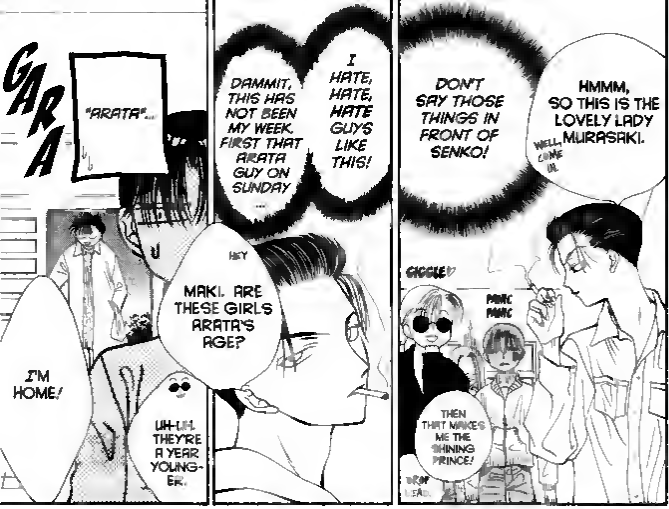
SHE'S SERIOUS.
I MEAN.
HEY!
I'M FINE!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!
ARE YOU?
SENKO...
KAZUHA-CHAN, YOU SEEM DOWN. ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
--THIS IS OFFICIALLY NOT FUNNY.
EH?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN SENKO LOOKING LIKE THAT...
ERR!
TIME TO GET OUT, YOU TWO.
I RESPECT YOU WITH ALL MY HEART.
HEH. HEH HEH HEH. EVEN MANLY SUGIMOTO WITH HIS WILD STEERING IS WON-DER-FUL...
YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THIS, SUREE
NOTE: SUGIMOTO'S DRIVING IS VERY DANGEROUS.
SORRY, SENKO. I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT SUGIMOTO'S DRIVING.
-GASP!-
-GASP!-
-HUFF!-
HE CHANGES LANES TOO FAST
IT ISN'T KEEN, BUT HE SPEEDS UP...
I'M USED TO IT

THE ENTRANCE IS THIS WAY
MY FRIEND'S A HAIR-DRESSER, TOO.
HIS NAME IS HONJO.
WE'RE MEETING AT HIS PLACE TODAY.
INCLUDING MIZUSHIMA-CHAN, THE THREE OF US WERE CLASSMATES WHEN WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
OH? DIDN'T I TELL YOU WHERE WE WERE GOING?
EH? A SALON?
I THINK THIS PLACE IT'S CLOSE TO OUR SCHOOL
YOU'RE NOT LIKE, CALL-ASS YAMA RIGHT NOW
NO.
HHH?
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY WE WERE THE WORST OF FRIENDS, ROTTEN TO THE CORE
YEP. WE USUALLY GOT TOGETHER ON TUESDAY NIGHTS.
EHH? SO DID YOU WORK HERE BEFORE?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOUR DOING?
EH HEH HEH. I AM A LOVE FAIRY. ☆
STRANGLE STRANGLE STRANGLE
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?
STOP
BUH!
GO!
DING DONG!
DON'T DO IT AGAIN!
MMMMMM
AH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM!?
GASP
STUMBLE
RATTLE RATTLE
YOU'RE LATE.
OH, I'M SO SORRY.
I'LL INTRO-DUCE THE TWO OF YOU.
THIS IS THE GUY I WAS JUST TELLING YOU ABOUT.
...THIS IS KIND OF HARD
KNACK
AUGH, SOME-HOW...

TORU HONJO.
GLOOM...
UWAH, IT'S OVER.
INCIDENTALLY, YOU CAN JUDGE HIM BY HIS COVER
WHOOOO
WAH-- HE LOOKS VICIOUS.
JUDGING FROM THE ATMOSPHERE, HE'S IN DEEP TROUBLE
I AM JUDGING YOU.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE JUDGING PEOPLE RIGHT WHEN THEY WALK THROUGH THE DOOR
LOOK, YOU...


HONJO, KAZUHA AKIYOSHI IS ON THE RIGHT...
...AND SENKO MATSUOKA IS ON THE LEFT.
H...HI.
I KNOW THE GIRL ON THE RIGHT.
I SAW HER IN THE MAGAZINE.
GEH! NOT THAT!

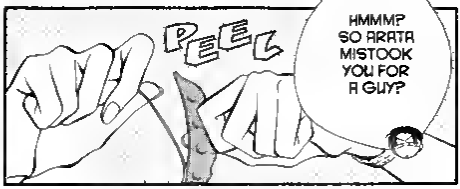

GARA
"ARATA"...
I'M HOME!
HEY
MAKI. ARE THESE GIRLS ARATA'S AGE?
UH-UH. THEY'RE A YEAR YOUNGER.
DAMMIT, THIS HAS NOT BEEN MY WEEK. FIRST THAT ARATA GUY ON SUNDAY...
I HATE, HATE, HATE GUYS LIKE THIS!
DON'T SAY THOSE THINGS IN FRONT OF SENKO!
HMMM, SO THIS IS THE LOVELY LADY MURASAKI.
WELL, COME IN.
GIGGLE
MARC MARC
THEN THAT MAKES ME THE SHINING PRINCE!
SENKO

YOU'RE THE PERVERT WHO FONDLES GIRLS' CHESTS!
AAAAAALIGH! YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO KICKED ME!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
ARATA, WERE YOU OUT SOMEWHERE?
MAKI-KUN, DID YOU JUST GET HERE? BIG BROTHER ASKED ME TO RUN SOME ERRANDS, SO...

WALL
RUB
RUB
AAHH
I JUST HEARD SOMETHING THAT I CAN'T EXCUSE.
PANIC
M. MAKI, YOU'RE SCARING ME
GAH!
KEEEHN!
SENKO IS BEHIND ME!
UMMM... I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY QUESTION THAT YOU'RE BROTHERS?
YEAH. YOU KNOW MY BROTHER?
HEH HEH HEH
GYAAAAH! MAKI-KUN'S HARRASSING ME!
HISSSS!
THE PERVERTED JERK IS IN FRONT OF ME
KYAAAAAAAH!
AAAAAAUGHHH! "BROTHER"!! THE DROOPING EYES, THEIR COMPLETE LACK OF TACT, OF COURSE THEY'RE ALIKE!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, LOOK!
KAZUHA-CHAN IS GOING MAD
YES, IT DOES!
DOES IT MATTER IF HE SQUEEZES A BOOB OR TWO?
ADD SUGIMOTO TO ALL THAT AND...

MEANWHILE...
DAILY HEAVEN
IT HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 22, THIS (WEDNESDAY). AS USUAL, I WAS TALKING TO SUNAKO-SAN ON THE PHONE.
EH? HMM.. REALLY?
THERE'S A FINE FOR THROWING AWAY RAW WASTE, YA KNOW?
SUNAKO
WHAT?!
YOU WERE JUST THINKING ABOUT THE WRONG THING WEREN'T YOU?
TRUCK OF ANXIETY
BY RAW WASTE, DO YOU MEAN SASHIMI?
NOTE: APPARENTLY RAW WASTE REFERS TO CAT/DOG/PET WASTE
YOU THROW AWAY SASHIMI, IT'S JUST GARBAGE
GYA HA HA HA! OF COURSE NOT!
I WAS ASHAMED THAT NIGHT
NEXT...
SUNAKO AND ME
WHEN I CALLED SUNAKO AND SHE PICKED UP THE PHONE...
YOU MUST HAVE A WRONG NUMBER.
THIS IS KYOKO. MAY I SPEAK TO SUNAKO-SAN?
I'M KIDNAPPED!
SHE'S A CRUEL PERSON (LAUGH)

KU HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE IT THROUGH THIS NIGHT UNSCATHED.


REEL
HMMM? SO ARATA MISTOOK YOU FOR A GUY?

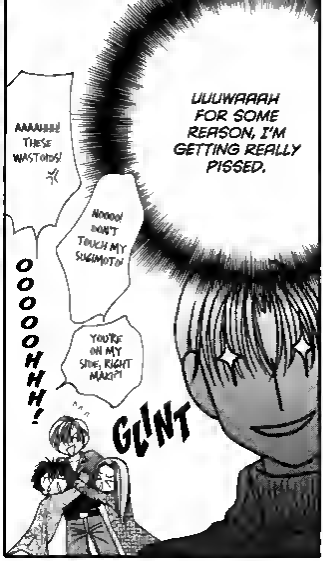
HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT HER, SHE'S A GIRL SHE'S SO SLENDER AND HAS SUCH A HIGH VOICE.
HE'S RIGHT
YOU'RE SO RUDE
THAT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, ARATA.
GANGING UP ON ME!
YOU TELL HIM!
I'LL HELP
SHUT UP, IMPOSTOR!

NO... UM, I'D FEEL BAD LEAVING MANAMI TO DO ALL THE COOKING.
EH?
MIZUSHIMA WILL BE HERE BEFORE LONG.
BY THE WAY, KAZUHA-CHAN, YOU COME OVER HERE, TOO.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO JOIN THIS GROUP?
HELPING
AND MORE THAN ANYTHING, I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE BEING OVER THERE.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN LEAVE!
POP
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU, PERV!
I CAME FOR MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI'S PARTY MATERIAL
SNAP
HEH. STAY AWAY, STAY AWAY I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE.
OH, GREAT SENSEI MANAMI, WE'RE GONNA GO AHEAD AND EAT.
THESE NOODLES...
SUSK SUSK
UUU-NNGH, TO THINK WE'RE RELATED.
'KAY
STUPID PERV.
UNCONCEIVED
BROTHER!
THAT GIRL...
HAVING WOMEN AROUND PRETTIES THE PLACE UP, I'D RATHER HAVE HER HERE.

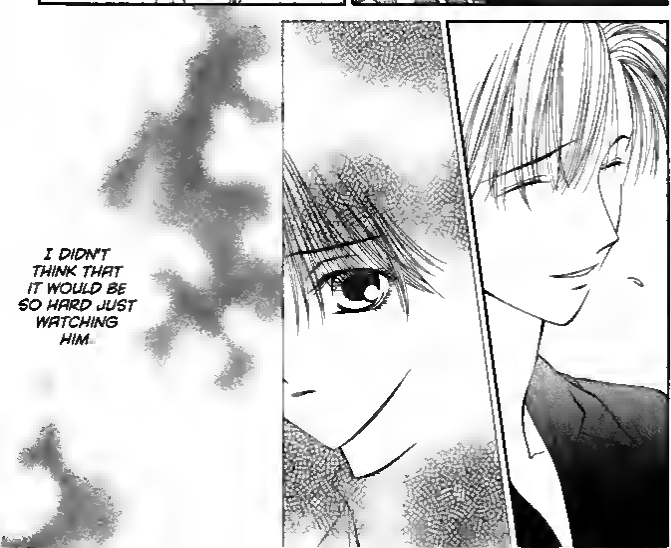
TEE HEE! THEN I GUESS I'LL HAVE YOU HELP.
...MANAMI...
THE WOMAN ENGAGED TO MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI.
NO, PLEASE LET ME STAY HERE.
BUT, REALLY, KAZUMA, GO JOIN THEM
NO,
NO,
NO,
EEHHH? REALLY?
I CAN WISH THEM HAPPINESS WITH ALL MY HEART.
THANK YOU
GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH.
BEFORE, I COULDN'T HONESTLY TELL HER "CONGRATULATIONS."
MANAMI!
BUT NOW...

KYA HA HAHA HAHAHA
...! THAT SENKO...
...COMPLETELY DESTROYING THE MOOD...
AAAAUGH! WHO LET SENKO DRINK?!
RAISING HANDS.
AAAUGH, THEY'RE ALL IDIOTS.
KYA HA HA! THERE ARE TWO SUGIMOTO
WHEEEE!
TWO?
AND LIKE THAT... EXAMPLE 2
OH, MAKI, YOU'RE SO POPULAR.
YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU?
I, I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
LOOK, YOU...
CLING
LIKE THIS. EXAMPLE 1
I'LL GO PUT THIS OVER THERE
NOOO!
CLIIING
SHE CAN'T HOLD HER LIQUOR AT ALL.
UGH, I DON'T CARE ANYMORE
AND CLINGING ALL OVER PEOPLE... YEAH, REALLY.

ANNOYED
ANNOYED
WELL, SUGIMOTO DOESN'T BELONG TO ME, SO I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN
BUT, YOU'RE TOO CLINGY! STOP IT! STUPID DRUNKS, BEHAVE YOURSELVES!


UUUWAAAH FOR SOME REASON, I'M GETTING REALLY PISSED.
AAAAHHH! THESE WASTOIDS!
NOOOO! DON'T TOUCH MY SUGIMOTO!
YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, RIGHT MAKI?!
OOOOOHHH!
GLINT

COMPLAINING
SIGH
SIGH...
YOUR EMOTIONS SHOW ON YOUR FACE...
SO I MIGHT NOT WANT TO SEE A MIRROR RIGHT NOW.


I DIDN'T THINK THAT IT WOULD BE SO HARD JUST WATCHING HIM.

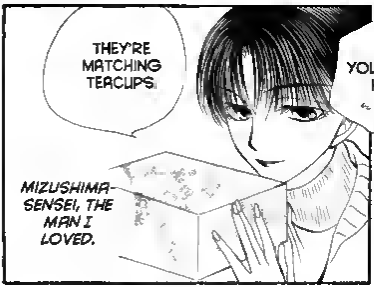
HONJO!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
SHE'S BOLD--THAT GIRL
DRAFT BEER
WHARGY
UGHACK! C...COLD!
ZOOOOOM!
KYAHH!
TO THINK THERE WOULD BE SOMEONE IN THE WORLD WORSE THAN SUGIMOTO!
YOU'RE STILL SO GREEN.
CHUCKLE
KAZUHI-CHAN, TAKE THOSE OVER AND THEN WE'RE DONE.
NO ONE SAID I WAS TALKING ABOUT MAKI.
YOU'RE SO OBVIOUS.
AAUGH-- I FELL FOR IT!
MM!
IF IT BOTHERS YOU, WHY DON'T YOU GO HANG OUT?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT SUGIMOTO

YOU DID ALL TOO!
LIKE HOW A LONG TIME AGO THERE WERE TONS OF GIRLS WHO YOU MADE CRY, YOU DROVE A MOTORCYCLE WITHOUT A LICENSE, YOU SMOKED AT SCHOOL ALL THE TIME, AND DID EVERY EVIL THING YOU COULD THINK OF?
KYAAN! DON'T SAY THAT!
MAN, I HATE GUYS WHO ALWAYS SHOW OFF
...ANY-THING WEIRD?
DON'T YOU BE HITTING ON HER, OKAY?
YOU WERE WATCHING? YOU'RE A PERV
HEY, YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING WEIRD TO KAZUHA-CHAN, ARE YOU?
WHISPER
GULP!
OH, THERE, THERE
AAAAHHH ♡ KAZUH-AAA!
DON'T OVERDO IT, OKAY?
YOU'RE SO WEIRD ALREADY...
HEH. HE'S TAKEN DAMAGE. EXCELLENT.
AAHH! A COLD LOOK! AND ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S SIGHING! WHAT DID SHE HEAR!? WHAT HAPPENED!? THERE ARE TOO MANY THINGS IT COULD BE!
HUG
KAZU-ZUMAN
HUG
HE CAN TELL ME TO HANG OUT WITH HIM...
DING DONG
WHOOOO
AH, SOMEONE'S HERE
STUPID, STUPID KONJO, YOU STUPID...!
VARIOUS EXPECTATIONS

CHEERS!
WELL, NOW THAT BOTH OUR GUESTS OF HONOR ARE HERE...
BIG ENTRANCE
WOW, THE HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE DRUNK.
HEY, YOU'RE EARLY LET'S GET STARTED.
YAY! IT'S MIZUSHIMA!
BUT I THOUGHT HONJO WOULD BE THE FIRST TO GET MARRIED.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE MAKI.
SHAKE
CONGRATULATIONS!
CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS.

--AND THAT MEANS...
PSH
WAAAHH!
TAKE THAT!
YOU DID DAMN FINE, YOU ROGUE!
HEY! TIME OUT!
NO BACKSIES!
GYAAAH!
AAAH! MANAMI WANTS TO DO IT, TOO!
TH... THEY'RE CHILDREN. I'M SURROUNDED BY CHILDREN
SIGH
WAAHH
NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU GET, YOU'RE STILL THE SAME
BE HAPPY, ALL RIGHT?

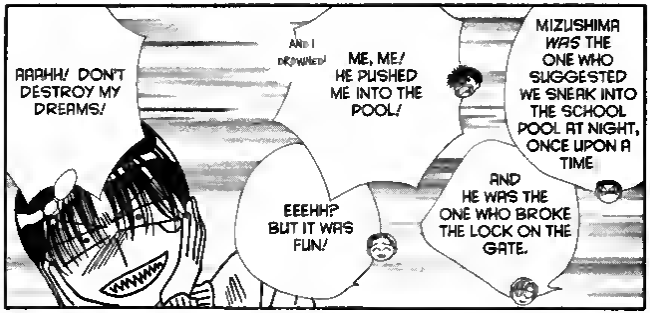
GUY FRIENDSHIP SEEMS KINDA NICE.
MAYBE I WISH I COULD HAVE FRIENDS LIKE THAT.


THEY'RE MATCHING TEACUPS.
MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI, THE MAN I LOVED.

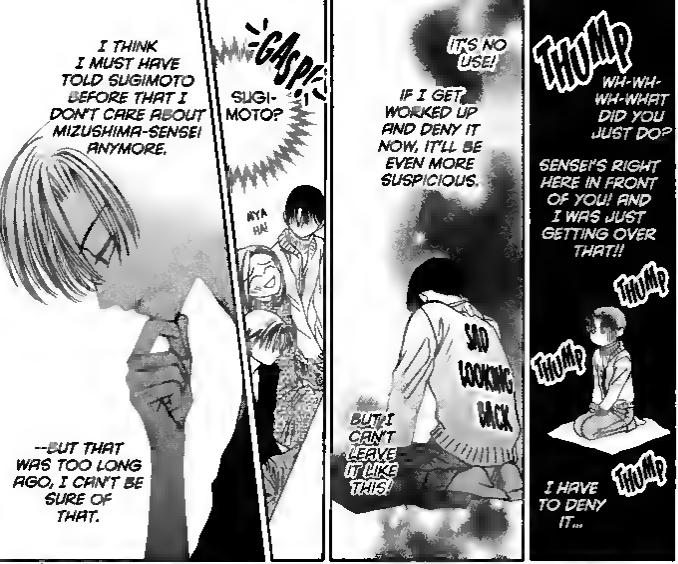
OH, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
EH?!
SEEENSEI! THIS IS FOR YOU. PLEASE TAKE IT!
YAY!

IF YOU DON'T MIND, PLEASE USE THEM TOGETHER.

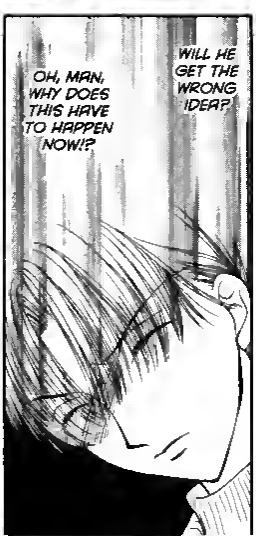
BUT EVEN THOUGH THAT FEELING WAS NO MORE THAN "ADMIRATION"...
...HE MADE ME FEEL GOOD INSIDE.
THANK YOU, KAZUHA-CHAN
CON-GRATULATIONS.
PLEASE BE HAPPY.
-:SNIFFLE:-
SOB!
-:SNIFFLE:-
THAT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
OOOH, OH, OH.
YOU CRY WHEN YOU DRINK?
BUT MIZUSHIMA-KUN, THE ONE WHO ACTS LIKE AN ANGEL WHEN HE'S ACTUALLY THE WORST, IS GETTING MARRIED!
COME ON, ARATA, DON'T TELL EVERYBODY.
WELL, IT'S TRUE.
WORST?!


AAAHH! DON'T DESTROY MY DREAMS!
WWWHHH
AND I DROWNED!
ME, ME! HE PUSHED ME INTO THE POOL!
EEEHH? BUT IT WAS FUN!
MIZUSHIMA WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED WE SNEAK INTO THE SCHOOL POOL AT NIGHT, ONCE UPON A TIME
AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE THE LOCK ON THE GATE.

OH, DEAR.
HMMM?
SENKO, YOU IDIOT!
DOHHH
KYA HA HA HA HA
KAZUHA USED TO BE IN LOVE WITH MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI. ♡
AW, MAN, WHAT NOW?
ME, ME! SENKO KNOWS A SECRET ♡
HA HA HA HA HA HA
GEH!

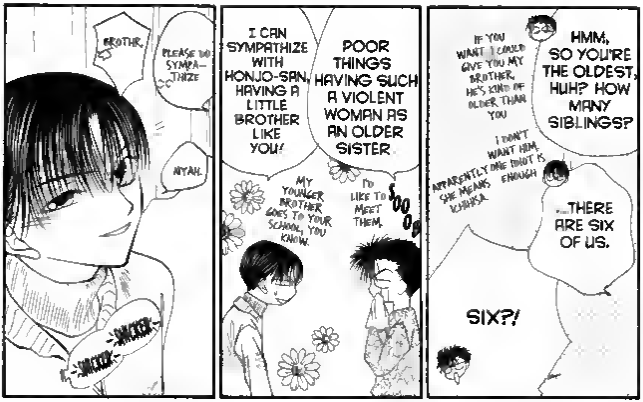

I THINK I MUST HAVE TOLD SUGIMOTO BEFORE THAT I DON'T CARE ABOUT MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI ANYMORE.
--BUT THAT WAS TOO LONG AGO, I CAN'T BE SURE OF THAT.
GASP!
SUGI-MOTO?
NYA HA!
IT'S NO USE!
IF I GET WORKED UP AND DENY IT NOW, IT'LL BE EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS.
SAD LOOKING BACK
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE IT LIKE THIS!
THUMP
WH-WH-WH-WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?
SENSEI'S RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF YOU! AND I WAS JUST GETTING OVER THAT!!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I HAVE TO DENY IT...

HAPPENS A LOT
THUNK!
WOW, SHE'S GOT TERRIBLE TASTE.
WOW!
EH?
EH?
DOESN'T SHE?
NYA HA

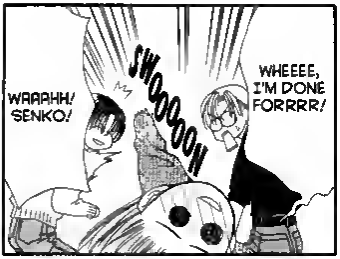

OH, MAN, WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN NOW!?
WILL HE GET THE WRONG IDEA?

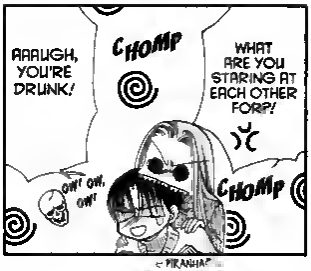
AH
SHIMI
H...HEY, THAT'S ALL? SHOULD YOU BE SO CASUAL ABOUT IT?
I THOUGHT THE GREAT MANAMI SENSEI WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE WEIRD ENOUGH TO LIKE HIM.
RIGHT?
IT'S MIZUSHIMA, YOU KNOW?
JIMI
EVEN SUGIMOTO
MM-HM
BEEHIP
OOOOH, MIZUSHIMA-KUN, YOU'RE SO POPULAR ♡
EH?!
EH?!
UNNECESSARY FEAR.

SEE, SENSEI IS NICE TO EVERYONE, YOU KNOW?
I ONLY HAVE YOUNGER SIBLINGS, SO I THOUGHT HE MUST BE WHAT A BIG BROTHER IS LIKE.
THANK YOU, SUGIMOTO.
SO I WAS A LITTLE JEALOUS.
YOU JUST LOOKED UP TO HIM, RIGHT?
EH?
AH, YEAH.
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

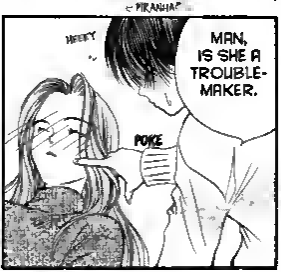

BROTHR.
PLEASE DO SYMPA-THIZE
NYAH.
-SMACK-
-SMACK-
I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH HONJO-SAN, HAVING A LITTLE BROTHER LIKE YOU!
POOR THINGS HAVING SUCH A VIOLENT WOMAN AS AN OLDER SISTER
MY YOUNGER BROTHER GOES TO YOUR SCHOOL, YOU KNOW.
I'D LIKE TO MEET THEM.
SOOO
IF YOU WANT I COULD GIVE YOU MY BROTHER, HE'S KIND OF OLDER THAN YOU
HMM, SO YOU'RE THE OLDEST, HUH? HOW MANY SIBLINGS?
I DON'T WANT HIM, ONE BRAT IS ENOUGH
APPARENTLY ONE BRAT IS ONE MEANS ICHIKA.
...THERE ARE SIX OF US.
SIX?!

...SUGIMOTO IS REALLY NICE, IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN MIZUSHIMA-SENSEI.
HE REALLY IS...
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I SUDDENLY THINK...


WAAAHH! SENKO!
SWOOOOOSH
WHEEEE, I'M DONE FORRRR!


AAAUGH, YOU'RE DRUNK!
CHOMP
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT EACH OTHER FOR?!
OWT OW, OWT
CHOMP

ONE

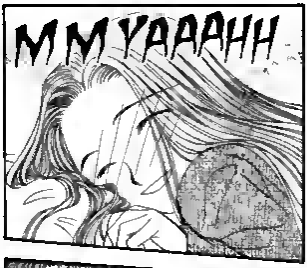

PIRANHA
HEEEY
MAN, IS SHE A TROUBLE-MAKER.
POKE

THIS GUY...
I'M KIDDING.
I'M TAKING HER TO MY ROOM. COME AND HELP.
O. YES.
HURRY BACK!

AHH, SHE'S HEAVY
HONJO... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GONNA TOSS HER OUTSIDE.
EH?!

SUGI-MOTO-SA...
ARE YOU TRYING TO HINT AT SOME-THING?
NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM PEOPLE CONNECTED TO MAKI.
OOF
DAMMIT
AH, YEAH.
MOVE THAT STUFF OVER THERE.
SENKO, YOU IDIOT
SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.

LATELY, I'M SO HAPPY BECAUSE I KNOW THAT SUGIMOTO CARES ABOUT ME.
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT SENKO...
I FEEL JUST A LITTLE ASHAMED.


MMYAAAHH

LOOSE LIPS. WAY DIFFERENT THAN HOW SHE NORMALLY IS...
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE MAYBE I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG.

WHY DID WE FALL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON?
YOU SURE ARE CLOSE.
HE WAS STILL HERE?
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME.
CREAK
WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU--HER OR MAKI?
WHA--?!
KAZUHA.
I'M WARNING YOU.
IF YOU KEEP HOLDING BACK, SOMEDAY HE'LL BE TAKEN FROM YOU, BY *YOUR FRIEND.*

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!

WORN OUT
WHAT'S UP, MAKI? WERE THE COPS AFTER YOU FOR SPEEDING?
YOU LOOK SO DEPRESSED.
HONJO.
YOU PUNCH A CAR AND RUN?
LOCK THE DOOR.
I'M BACK.
GARA GARA, SNAP
DID YOU GET THE YOUNG LADIES HOME SAFELY?
YEAH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 4

(I SAW MAKI ON PAGE 128 OF VOLUME 1 A GIRL'S LOVE SONG)

LALALA LARRA. SINCE THE DAY I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF YOU, I, TOO, HAVE BEEN CAPTIVATED BY SUGIMOTO-SAMA. YOUR EYES, ITS YOU GAZE AT KAZUHA-CHAN, ARE A LITTLE SOUR LIKE A LEMON. COME
---> AH HA HA HAHA
COME
----> LET US RUN IN A FIELD TOGETHER ---> LOL/
<SUGIMOTO'S THEME, MUSIC BY S.O.-SAN FROM AICHI PREFECTURE> (...A FIELD .)

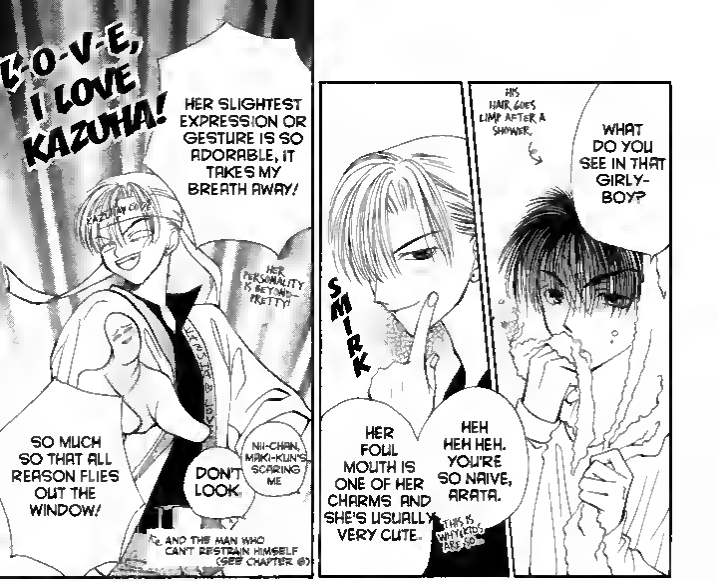
OH, HOW HOPELESS SHE IS. THIS TIME, THE "MOST HOPELESS" AWARD GOES TO HER. THE EXTENT OF HER NONSENSICALNESS IS BEYOND MEASURE--I LOVE IT.. PLEASE WALK A FINE WALK OF LIFE

THAT'S RIGHT. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE OF THE "MAKI" LOOKED BETTER WITH HIS HAIR DOWN!" CAMP THAT EVEN I WAS SURPRISED 😭. MAYBE FROM NOW ON, I WILL TRY TO HAVE HIM TAKE HIS HAIR DOWN MORE OFTEN. IN THE MAGAZINE. HE LET HIS HAIR DOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CHAPTER 10. AND AFTER THAT, HE TIES IT BACK LESS OFTEN.

YO--CHAN CHANGED HER HAIRSTYLE AGAIN.

TELL ME THE TRUTH.
YOU REALLY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO HER, DID YOU?
HATE YOU!?
SHE WOULD NEVER SAY THAT, EVEN IF THE HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE TORN ASUNDER!
I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU SAID ANYTHING THAT MIGHT MAKE HER HATE ME EVEN MORE!
WHO WOULD CHEAT ON HER, YOU ASS!
DID LADY MURASAKI SAY SOMETHING? LIKE "LOOK ONLY AT ME!"?
SHE WAS PROBABLY LOOKING PALE BECAUSE I WARNED HER THAT YOU WERE ABOUT TO CHEAT ON HER WITH HER FRIEND.
.... IS THAT HOW IT IS?
UGH, HE'S ABANDONED HIMSELF TO DESPAIR.
IT'S ALL OVER. HEH-HEH-HAHAHA HA HA HA! I CAN'T LIVE IT ANYMORE
LOOK AT THE TITLE! "I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE"
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, KAZUHA-CHAN IS NOT MY GIRLFRIEND.
OH, I'M SAYING THAT A LOT LATELY.

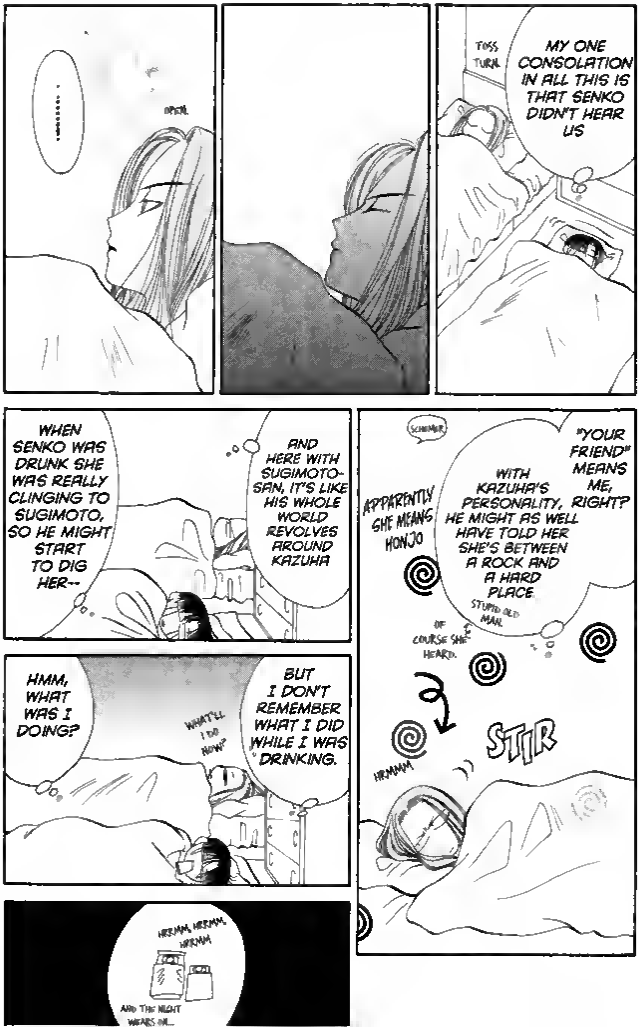
I WONDER WHAT CAUSED IT...
SHE WAS SO QUIET IT WAS SCARY.
SHE WAS SITTING SHOTGUN, BUT SHE WAS STILL SO OUT OF IT
SO WAS LADY MURASAKI ACTING STRANGE OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S RIGHT LIKE SHE WASN'T HERSELF—
GOOD IDEA. I SHOULD JUST TAKE IT EASY TONIGHT
IS HE ALREADY WRECKED?
MAKI-KUN, THE BATH'S FREE.
STEAM
STEAM
EH HEH HEH...
.....
I HOPE SO.
SHE'S PROBABLY JUST TIRED.
WELL, SIT DOWN. HAVE A DRINK.
TINGE OF ANXIETY
GLOOM
PAT.
I MEANT TO CHEER HER UP, BUT I GUESS I WIDENED THE GAP
SHE HASN'T REJECTED ME YET/
WHEN A MAN'S HAS HIS HEART BROKEN, IT'S BEST TO LEAVE HIM ALONE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MAKI-KUN?
PROBABLY
HOW RUDE!


L-O-V-E, I LOVE KAZUHA!
HER SLIGHTEST EXPRESSION OR GESTURE IS SO ADORABLE, IT TAKES MY BREATH AWAY!
KAZUHA CUTE
HER PERSONALITY IS BEYOND— PRETTY!
SO MUCH SO THAT ALL REASON FLIES OUT THE WINDOW!
DON'T LOOK
NII-CHAN, MAKI-KUN'S SCARING ME
AND THE MAN WHO CAN'T RESTRAIN HIMSELF (SEE CHAPTER 6)
SMIRK
HER FOUL MOUTH IS ONE OF HER CHARMS AND SHE'S USUALLY VERY CUTE.
HEH HEH HEH. YOU'RE SO NAIVE, ARATA.
THIS IS WHITE DEVIL ARE SO—
HIS HAIR GOES LIMP AFTER A SHOWER.
WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THAT GIRLY-BOY?

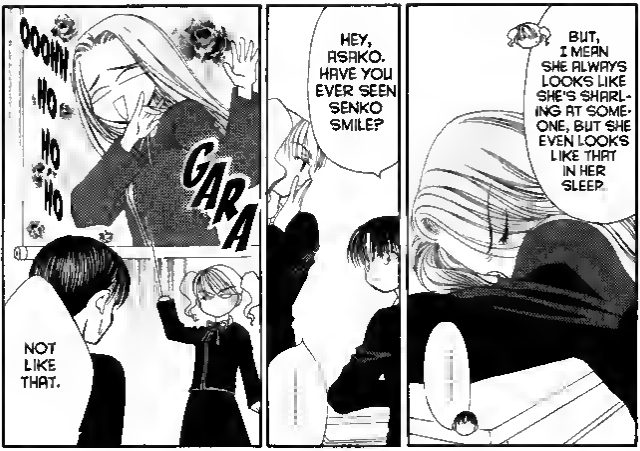
BUT MAKI, GET A CLUE ABOUT THE GIRL'S FEELINGS.
EVERY-WHERE I TURN, THEY'RE ALL STILL CHILDREN
AAAAHHH! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! KAZUHA, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I'M NOT THINKING ANYTHING I SHOULD FEEL GUILTY FOR! NO, I AM. BUT (OY) SO PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR NORMAL SELF! AND GET MAD AT MEEEE!
M-MAKI-KUN!
MASOCHIST?
AH.
OH! YOU BEAST.

IF YOU KEEP HOLDING BACK, SOMEDAY HE'LL BE TAKEN FROM YOU, BY YOUR FRIEND.
...AND I HOPE THAT GIRL ISN'T WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT I SAID.
WHOOOO
WAAAAH MAKI-KUN, DON'T USE ME AS HER SUBSTITUTE!
KYAAAAAAA!
HMMMMMM
ANGUISH
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, IT'S BEST TO JUST NOT THINK ABOUT ANYTHING AND GO TO SLEEP!
BUT THE MORE I THINK THAT, THE LESS I CAN SLEEP!
AAAARGH! WHAT HONJO-SAN SAID IS BOTHERING ME SO MUCH I CAN'T SLEEP!
ANGUISH
I'M WORRYING LIKE CRAZY!
SHHHHHHH
IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE.
IT'S SOMETHING YOU THINK ABOUT

ZZZZ
I HATE THIS.
HOLDING BACK, HAVING HIM TAKEN.
I'M SO SURE SOMEONE WILL GET HURT, I'M SCARED.


...
HUH?
TOSS TURN
MY ONE CONSOLATION IN ALL THIS IS THAT SENKO DIDN'T HEAR US
WHEN SENKO WAS DRUNK SHE WAS REALLY CLINGING TO SUGIMOTO, SO HE MIGHT START TO DIG HER--
AND HERE WITH SUGIMOTO-SAN, IT'S LIKE HIS WHOLE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND KAZUHA
SCHMUR
"YOUR FRIEND" MEANS ME, RIGHT?
WITH KAZUHA'S PERSONALITY, HE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE TOLD HER SHE'S BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE
APPARENTLY SHE MEANS HONJO
STUPID OLD MAN.
OF COURSE SHE HEARD.
STIR
HMMM
HMM, WHAT WAS I DOING?
WHAT'LL I DO NOW?
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I DID WHILE I WAS DRINKING.
HRRMM, HRRMM, HRRMM
AND THE NIGHT WEARS ON...

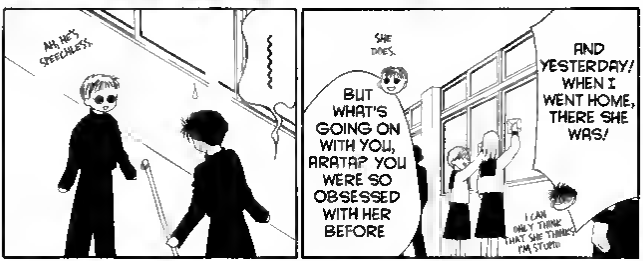
GLOOM
...
PERSON WHO ENDED UP NOT BEING ABLE TO SLEEP.
IN COMPARISON...
SNOOOOORE
DING DONG
YOU'RE A HARD WORKER, AS USUAL.
OH, IT'S THE BELL
NO, I'M FINE. I ONLY HAVE SIXTH PERIOD LEFT ANYWAY.
WHOA, THERE ARE SOME BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES.
YOU'VE BEEN BLUE ALL DAY TODAY.
WHY NOT GO GET SOME SLEEP IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE?
SHE SLEPT SO MUCH LAST NIGHT, I'M SURPRISED SHE CAN SLEEP NOW.
ZZZZ
SHE'S SLEPT THE WHOLE TIME
WHAT DID SHE EVEN COME TO SCHOOL FOR?
*LIKE KAZUMA, AT PRESENT, SEIRO COULDN'T SLEEP, EITHER.

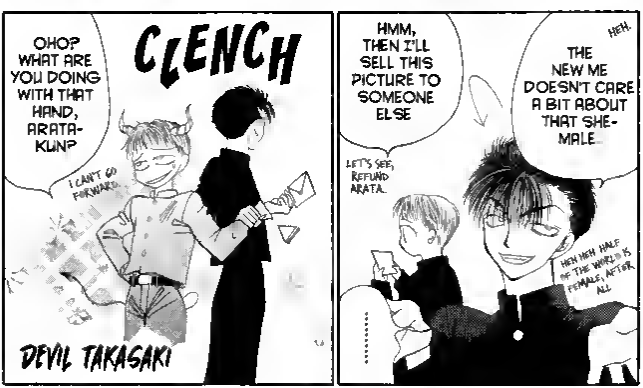

BUT, I MEAN SHE ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SMILING AT SOMEONE, BUT SHE EVEN LOOKS LIKE THAT IN HER SLEEP.
HEY, ASAKO. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN SENKO SMILE?
GARA
OOOHH HO HO HO
NOT LIKE THAT.

HMMM.
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN I HADN'T EVER SEEN IT BEFORE
I GUESS IT'S AN EXPRESSION SHE ONLY SHOWS IN FRONT OF THE ONE SHE LOVES...

GYAAAH!
FEP!
I KINDA RESENT IT
DEVIL EYES
FLASH
ZZZZZZ
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
HEY, YOU TWO, BE QUIET!
GYAAAH!
CUT IT OUT! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
IS CRANKY AFTER WAKING UP
CUT HER!
GASP
MEANWHILE, AT HOUJOU HIGH SCHOOL..
AKA KITA HIGH
CLEANING
3-9
ARATA! THE REPRINTS ARE DONE! DO YOU WANT ANY?
AAHH? REPRINTS?

HE'S GOT QUITE THE GRUDGE.
KAAAH! BLECH! BLECH!
ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OWN FAULTS!
WHO WOULD WANT PICTURES OF HER!?
YUP
PHOTOS OF AKIYOSHI-SAN
IDLE IDLE
HUH? THAT'S A FUNNY FACE

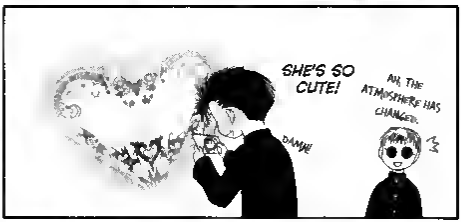

AH, HE'S SPEECHLESS.
SHE DOES.
BUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU, ARATA? YOU WERE SO OBSESSED WITH HER BEFORE
AND YESTERDAY! WHEN I WENT HOME, THERE SHE WAS!
I CAN ONLY THINK THAT SHE THINKS I'M STUPID


CLENCH
OHOP WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT HAND, ARATA-KUN?
I CAN'T GO FORWARD.
DEVIL TAKASAKI
HMM, THEN I'LL SELL THIS PICTURE TO SOMEONE ELSE
HEH.
THE NEW ME DOESN'T CARE A BIT ABOUT THAT SHE-MALE.
LET'S SEE, REFUND ARATA.
HEH HEH HALF OF THE WORLD IS FEMALE, AFTER ALL.
.....

DAILY HEAVEN CONTINUED
I OFTEN MAKE JOKES LIKE IT DID WOULD. WHEN THAT HAPPENS DURING WORK, MY ASSISTANT JUN-CHAN WILL OFTEN GET ORDERS FROM SUMIKO TO DISPOSE OF HIDAKI.
WHINE WHINE
WHINE
JUST DO IT!
NOW, JUN-CHAN!! HURRY!
FAINT
BUT...
GET RID OF THAT OLD MAN WAAAH
JUN-CHAN IS SUCH A GOOD KID.
BUT...
JUN-CHAN, THANK YOU.
I MEAN...
NOW?
—HOWEVER.
BLUNT
I'LL BE CHARGED FINE.
JUN FOR EVER
MAKI-KUN?
Ah
Me
BWAHAHAHAHA!
JUN-CHAN WHO'S BEING HONEST.
AH, I'M SORRY I'M SORRY
PFF—
HAHA HAHA
JUN-CHA...
IT WAS A DRY WHEN I WAS TREATED LIKE RAW WASTE
THERE'S STILL MORE RAW WASTE TO COME— NEXT ⇒

KAZUHA WITH LONG HAIR.
.....

RUSTLE...
HER PERSONALITY IS ABOUT AS CUTE AS A DEMON, AND YET HER FACE IS EXACTLY MY TYPE.
IT'S NOT FAIR.

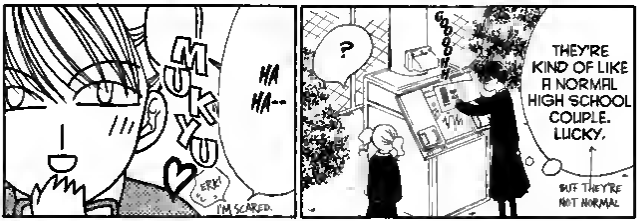

SHE'S SO CUTE!
AH, THE ATMOSPHERE HAS CHANGED.
DAMN!

PHOTO

I GUESS MAKI-KUN WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE DOES IN THIS PICTURE
HMM
BUT HOWEVER CUTE SHE IS, HER PERSONALITY IS...
MMPH
FEARATA'S IMAGE OF KAZUHA.

I DON'T KNOW FOR SOME WEIRD REASON, I JUST FELT A CHILL...
WHAT'S WRONG, KAZUHA?
HMM
YOU SAY, AND YET I WONDER WHY YOUR FACE IS ALL RED AS YOU PUT THAT PHOTO IN YOUR BREAST POCKET.
HEH THAT'S RIDICULOUS MAKI-KUN'S GOT BAD TASTE.
HEH HEH.
THIS COUPLE HAS AN INTERESTING WAY OF DATING, TOO.
THERE WERE SO MANY REPRINTS- IT WAS AWFUL! TAKASAKI SAYS THAT EVEN IN HIS DREAMS, PICTURES SHOWED UP AND CHASED HIM AROUND
HMM.
KEH KEH KEH
WOW, THIS ENVELOPE IS "CUTE"
OH! PHOTO REPRINTS? THANKS.
TO KAZUHA...
TAKASAKI AND I PUT THEM INTO ENVELOPES FOR EVERYBODY YESTERDAY.
BINGO
MAYBE, CONTRARY TO WHAT I'D EXPECT, PICTURES OF PRETTY KAZUHA HAVE FALLEN INTO ARATA-KUN'S HANDS.
RUMMAGE
KAZUHA! I FORGOT TO GIVE YOU THIS. HERE.

SO WHO ASKED WHO OUT TO BEGIN WITH, ASAKO?
KIND OF REALLY INTERESTED
TAKASAKI.
WE WERE BOTH IN THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
BUT SHE MADE HIM ASK
HMM.
BUT WE BOTH REALLY MESHED.


THEY'RE KIND OF LIKE A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL COUPLE. LUCKY.
BUT THEY'RE NOT NORMAL
GOOOOH
?
HA HA--
I'M SCARED.

SO YOU'RE PLANNING YOUR ATTACK ON SUGIMOTO-SAN, THEN?
C: APPROPRIATE WORD
WHA--?!
TEE HEE HEE SPRING BREEZE, TAKE MY HEART TO HIM.
OH, MY SWEET DARLING
D-DON'T BE STUPID! WHO WOULD DO THAT!?
AWW! BUT YOU KNOW...

IF YOU WOULD JUST SAY "I LOVE YOU," IT WOULD ALL END HAPPILY EVER AFTER, WOULDN'T IT?
IT'S SO OBVIOUS, SHE DIDN'T THINK OF IT.
AHH THEN, BACK TO CLASS.
GASP!
O... OH YEAH! THAT'S A POSSIBILITY!
UWAAAH, IT'S LIKE A FAIRY TALE!
IT IS A FAIRY TALE
I STRANGLE HIM
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
STRANGLE
SEE CHAPTER 1
I KICK HIM
OH, MY!
KICK KICK KICK
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE UP TO NOW...
SEE CHAPTER 7

I GUESS WITH KAZUHA'S PERSONALITY, THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN SAY, "I LOVE YOU."
HOW CAN I FACE HIM AND SAY I LIKE HIM?
NO, I CAN'T SAY IT
DROP

WHEN I THINK ABOUT SENKO ...
THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULDN'T BE BUMMED.
I CAN'T SAY IT...

PAT
WELL, TAKE YOUR TIME.
YOU'RE NOT USED TO THIS LIKE MATSUOKA.

EH?
IT'S NOT THAT.
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S FINE. YOU CAN GO AT YOUR OWN PACE.
I REALLY CAN'T SAY IT.

AND I'M SURE THAT SMILE WOULD DISAPPEAR
...KAZUHA THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
WHERE DID YOU GO TO THROW OUT THE TRASH?
HOME-ROOM'S OVER ALREADY!
AAAHH! I'M LATE TO MEET MY BOYFRIEND!
I HAVE PRACTICE!
THUDDA
THUDDA
THUDDA
THUDDA
MITSUI
2 - B
...I'M GONNA RUSH HOME AND GET SOME SLEEP.
EH HEH HEH
.....

THERE YOU ARE! ISHIZUKA, WE HEARD THE PHOTOS ARE READY?
OH, SEMPAI, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO BRING THEM TO YOU.
PATA PATA
IS AKIYOSHI WITH YOU?
YES, SHE IS.
WE HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
YES?
SOMEONE CALLED?
YOUR SEXY BOYFRIEND FROM THE MAGAZINE IS WRITING FOR YOU AT THE GATE.
EH!?

BUT!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY, KAZUHA.
HURRY AND GO, WILL YA?
BIG SISTER KICK!
OW!
WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT? YOU'RE GOING HOME NOW ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU?
HURRY AND GO MEET HIM!
UM! THAT IS!
NO WAY!
B... BUT TODAY IS WEDNESDAY! HUH?
BUT WHY...? DOESN'T HE HAVE WORK?
MUTTER MUTTER
WELL, I GUESS I'LL GO HOME.
SENKO!!
AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL RUN INTO HIM AT THE GATE...
SENKO-SAN
NO ONE'S IN THE CLASSROOM.
BY THE WAY, IS HOMEROOM OVER?
I GOT STUCK CLEANING THE SCIENCE ROOM, IT ATE UP ALL MY TIME
I SEE.
PANIC, PANIC
D-D-D-D-DID YOU HEAR THAT...
JUST NOW?
HUH?

2-B
WHAT WAS THAT?
SNAP
DASH!
TELL HIM I WENT HOME EARLY!
YOU IDIOT!
AH!
A
SA
FIDGET FIDGET FIDGET
KO
CHAN..
WHAT?
...I WONDER IF SUGIMOTO WILL BE DISAPPOINTED...
GRIP
OOF
I WONDER IF ASAKO'S MAD
I FEEL BAD FOR SUGIMOTO, TOO, BUT TODAY IS ALL ABOUT RUNNING AWAY.
JUMPING OVER THIS WALL IS THE BEST SHORT CUT
AND I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT I CAN ACT LIKE NORMAL.
GRAB
SINCE I KIND OF CAN'T FACE HIM.
CLAP CLAP
HURRY!

HEH HEH HEH DON'T THINK I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY
S...
SUGI...!
ASAKO-CHAN TOLD ME YOU'D BE HERE.
ASAKO, YOU IDIOT!
HI KAZUHA-CHAN.
CAN'T YOU FREE UP SOME TIME?
JUST AN HOUR OR TWO
AH...
I HAVE UNTIL ABOUT SEVEN...
UNNGH, THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN.
UGH
DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TODAY?
THE SHOP'S CLOSED, SO I GET TWO DAYS OFF.
SO I CAME TO INVITE YOU OUT ON A DRIVE.

I CAN'T GET DOWN!
WHY?
WHAT-EVER
JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY
I'M BEING CARRIED AWAY...!!
THEN IT'S DECIDED
NO! NOT A CHANCE! I'D DIE FIRST!!
YOU'RE HOPE-LESS.
OUT OF THE WAY!
GO ON, JUMP!
THEN I'LL CATCH YOU!
WHAT IS HE SAYING!?
HOW OLD ARE YOU!?
ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS FOR IT?
KONK
HE'S SUCH A EMBARRASSING GUY
GYAAAH! THERE'S SOMEBODY COMING!
JUST JUMP!
DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.
COME ON. IF YOU DON'T HURRY, A TEACHER WILL FIND YOU.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HO HO HO

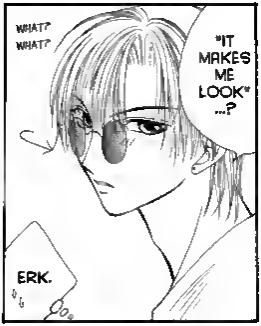
WHAT'LL I DO?
SOMEHOW...
THUMP
THIS IS SUPER EMBARRASSING
BUT I LIKE IT
BLISS
UWAAHH.
PUT ME DOWN.
AHHGH
BADUMP BADUMP
YES, YES.

OH, THIS? HONJO SAID IF I ALWAYS KEEP IT UP, I'LL GO BALD
I ALWAYS KEEP IT IN PLACE WITH MOUSSE
YOUR HAIR'S NOT UP.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT LIKE THAT
YEAH, IT MAKES YOU LOOK...

HUH?

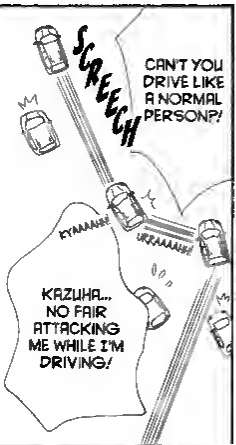
CRAP...
NOW I'M REALLY NERVOUS.
I CAN OPEN THE DOOR MYSELF.
AFTER YOU.
IT'S FINE IT'S FINE.

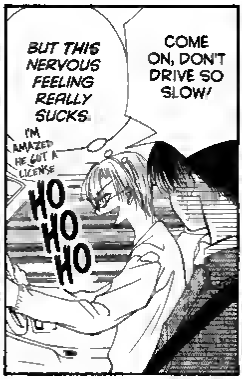
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
Y.. YOUNGER.
HOW DO I LOOK NORMALLY?
YEAH


WHAT? WHAT?
"IT MAKES ME LOOK" ...?
ERK.

AWWW.

THIS NERVOUS FEELING...
...ISN'T TOO BAD.
THEN SHALL WE BE OFF?
BUT...


SCREECH
CAN'T YOU DRIVE LIKE A NORMAL PERSON?!
KYAAAAH!
UKYAAAAAH!
KAZUHA... NO FAIR ATTACKING ME WHILE I'M DRIVING!


BUT THIS NERVOUS FEELING REALLY SUCKS.
COME ON, DON'T DRIVE SO SLOW!
I'M AMAZED HE GOT A LICENSE
HO HO HO

VA-VOOOM
OUCH!

YESTERDAY, YOU WERE ACTING A LITTLE WEIRD, SO I WAS WORRIED.
JOLT
AH...
SNICKER
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
I WAS THINKING HOW IT'S BACK TO NORMAL TODAY.
WHAT IS?
SUGIMOTO...
MM?
IS IT TABOO TO BRING UP YESTERDAY?!
BUT I'M GLAD TO KNOW I WAS THINKING TOO HAR...
KyAAAH!
SHE'S GOTTEN DEPRESSED!
GNOOM

WHAT'S WRONG ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NEVER MIND, JUST STOP THE CAR!
KAZUHA-CHAN?
I'M SORRY. ON SECOND THOUGHT, DROP ME OFF HERE.
KACHA
GUH!
SUGIMOTO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SENKO?
WAH!

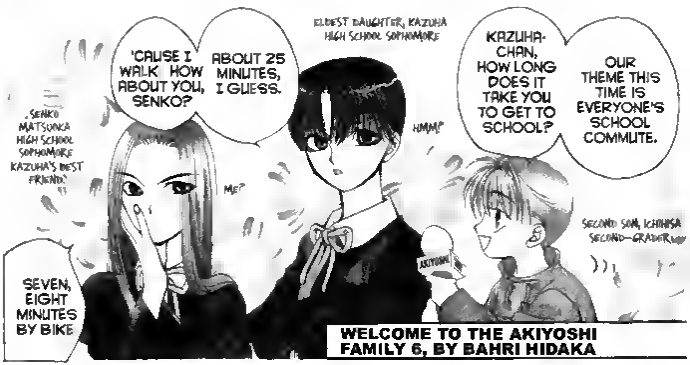
SCREECH
KAZUHA-CHAN YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL, DON'T YOU?
YES, BUT...
WHAM!
THEN SHE DOESN'T MATTER, DOES SHE?
SHE DOES MATTER! BECAUSE SHE LOVES--

THEN WHY DID YOU GET IN THE CAR?
IT'S NOT...
YOU ARE CRUEL.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
YOUR UNCERTAIN ATTITUDE AND WISHY-WASHY KINDNESS ONLY...
IT'S JUST THAT I KNOW HOW SENKO FEELS, TOO.
HURTS THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY.

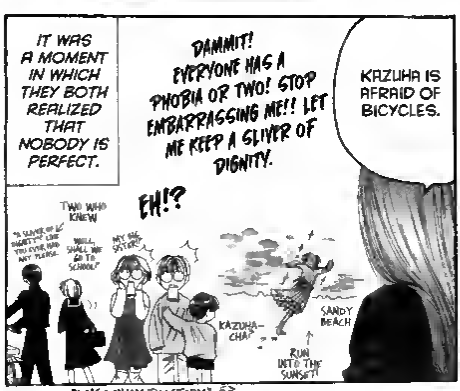
I CAN'T MAKE THINGS GO RIGHT.
BUT IT'S ALL WRONG NOW.
I LIKE SUGIMOTO, BUT SENKO IS IMPORTANT TO ME, TOO.
I CAN'T DECIDE.
KAZUHA-CHAN!
WHAT SUGIMOTO SAID STABBED ME IN THE HEART.
MY SUFFOCATION TURNED TO SILENCE.
BUT...
I COULDN'T BE NEAR SUGIMOTO
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO RUN AWAY.
SCAN

ABOUT THE HONJO BROTHERS. THE HONJO BROTHERS, AS THEY APPEAR IN VOLUME 2, WERE DRAWN SO POORLY, IT GIVES ME CHILLS. NO, SERIOUSLY. IT'S SUPER TRUE. NOT BEING USED TO DRAWING SOMEONE IS A FRIGHTENING THING (WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?) AROUND VOLUME 3. THEY LOOK LIKE THEY DO IN THE PICTURE BELOW. THEIR HAIRSTYLES, YOU KNOW? THEY'RE HARD. SO EVERYONE, PLEASE OVERLOOK THEM IN VOLUME 2. (WHIMPER.) BUT I CAN'T QUITE FIGURE OUT WHAT THE READERS' REACTION IS TO THE HONJO BROTHERS. THE LETTERS I GET ARE ALL ABOUT SUGIMOTO, KAZUHA, OR THE SPIRITS. AS FOR ME, I LIKE THEM! ESPECIALLY THE OLDER HONJO'S DIALOGUE. WHEN DRAWING THEM, IT'S EASY TO POSE THEM, AND IT'S FUN. I WONDER IF THE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL READERS WILL LIKE THEM. WILL LIKE THEM? BADUMP BADUMP. OH WELL. (OY) SUNAKO-SAN HAS EVEN SAID THAT, "THE OLDER HONJO LOOKS LIKE HE'LL KILL SOMEONE RIGHT NOW!!" I DON'T NECESSARILY NOT GET THE FEELING THAT HE'S NOT AS BAD AS HE LOOKS. (WHICH IS IT?) ARATA, YOU KNOW? HE'S AN IDIOT BEYOND HELP. WHEN I WAS DESIGNING HIM, HE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE THAT WAY, BUT WHEN I STARTED WRITING HIM, HE SURPRISED ME. HE'S JUST BURSTING WITH STUPIDITY, AND MIGHT REALLY BE THE TYPE I'D LIKE AS A FRIEND. AND SO, PLEASE THINK KINDLY OF THESE CHARACTERS, AS YOU DO SUGIMOTO AND KAZUHA. -BANRI HIDAKA, 6/17/98
ARATA HONJO
BORN AUGUST 9, LEO
BLOOD-TYPE O, HEIGHT 5'11"
TORU HONJO
BORN JANUARY 25, AQUARIUS
THE HEIGHT DIFFERENCE TO THE RIGHT IS A LIE
BLOOD-TYPE B, HEIGHT 5'9"

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!
Kazuha-Chan And Me
REI-CHAN'S HANDWRITING
Keep
(By sugimoto)
(By ICHIHISA)
Kazu, Don't Decide Without Asking!
(Kazu) Who The Hell Took This?
(SUGI) DOES SHE HAVE A HARD TIME WAKING UP?
(ICHI) NOT REALLY.
(KAZU) WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


ELDEST DAUGHTER, KAZUHA
HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE
'CAUSE I WALK HOW ABOUT YOU, SENKO?
ABOUT 25 MINUTES, I GUESS.
KAZUHA-CHAN, HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO GET TO SCHOOL?
OUR THEME THIS TIME IS EVERYONE'S SCHOOL COMMUTE.
"SENKO" MATSUNOKA HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE KAZUHA'S BEST FRIEND!!
ME?
HMM?
SECOND SON, ICHIHISA SECOND-GRADER
SEVEN, EIGHT MINUTES BY BIKE
WELCOME TO THE AKIYOSHI FAMILY 6, BY BAHRI HIDAKA

WE CAN ALL GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER BECAUSE THE PRESCHOOL, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL WERE ALL BUILT NEXT TO EACH OTHER
SECOND DAUGHTER, MANAKA MIDDLE-SCHOOL SOPHOMORE
THIRD DAUGHTER, TOMARI FOURTH GRADER
THE FOUR OF US CAN WALK TO SCHOOL IN TEN MINUTES.
THEY ALL PICK UP BAD WORDS THERE. WHY DON'T THEY HAVE FEWER SCHOOLS?
THIRD SON, 1ST HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECT. LOVES RALLY'S
HUHP


IT WAS A MOMENT IN WHICH THEY BOTH REALIZED THAT NOBODY IS PERFECT.
DAMMIT! EVERYONE HAS A PHOBIA OR TWO! STOP EMBARRASSING ME!! LET ME KEEP A SLIVER OF DIGNITY.
KAZUHA IS AFRAID OF BICYCLES.
EH!?
THAN WHO KNEW
A SLIVER OF WHAT?? I SEE THERE'S YOU OVER THERE, HEY PLEASE.
WELL, SHALL WE GO TO SCHOOL?
HEY BIG SISTER!
KAZUHA-CHA~
SANDY BEACH
RUN INTO THE SUNSET!

WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW?
IF YOU RIDE YOUR BIKE, SENKO, WHY DOES KAZUHA WALK?
YOU LIVE IN THE SAME AREA, SO WHY CAN'T KAZUHA-CHAN RIDE?
GOOD QUESTION
S... SENKO!!

PLEASE ENJOY THE STORY~

"YOUR UNCERTAIN ATTITUDE AND WISHY-WASHY KINDNESS ONLY HURTS THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU."
I COULD SEE TERRIBLE PAIN IN SUGIMOTO'S EYES WHEN HE SAID THAT.
I CAN'T GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 5
MY SLEEPLESS SELF

IT'S TRUE. I CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT. AWAWAH. I TRY NOT TO THINK TOO HARD, BUT WHENEVER I TRY TO GO TO SLEEP, MY HEAD SPINS WITH WORRIES ABOUT DEADLINES AND THINGS. (I'M PRONE TO WORRYING. KHAHA!) ^^; WHEN I MENTIONED THAT IN THE MAGAZINE, I GOT LOTS OF LETTERS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I HAVE TRIED OUT VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS. --BUT, I'M SORRY. I STILL HAVEN'T SOLVED THE PROBLEM. KYAAA--I FEEL LIKE IT WILL NEVER BE FIXED AS LONG AS I'M A MANGA ARTIST. I THINK I STILL WANT TO MAINTAIN THIS LIFESTYLE. IF SOMEONE HAS A GOOD WAY TO DEAL WITH IT, BY ALL MEANS, PLEASE TELL ME. (SERIOUSLY..) I'M BEGGING YOU

<WAYS TO GET TO SLEEP> (FROM LETTERS)

① HOT MILK
▶ I LIKE IT/ BUT...I WONDER WHY IT DOESN'T WORK? IS IT BAD THAT I PUT SUGAR IN IT?

② READ BOOKS (NOVELS)
▶ I'M SORRY I HATE PRINT TYPE. ALL I CAN SAY IS, I'M SORRY

③ DON'T SLEEP (LAUGH)
▶ THAT'S TERRIBLY FUNNY.

"UNCERTAIN ATTITUDE."

I ENDED UP WALKING ALL OVER SUGIMOTO'S FEELINGS AFTER ALL.

MY BAG.
I LEFT IT IN THE CAR..
CRAP
WIPE

GEH?
GYA!
GH!
EH?
ONCE AGAIN
TEARS...
AND IT'S A LONG WAY HOME...
OH MIN!
UGH, I HATE THIS! WHY DO THINGS TURN OUT LIKE THIS?!
?!
CRASH!
UWAH!
HUH?
HEY... ARE YOU OKAY?!
UWAAAH!
DOOOOOM
I..I GOT HIT BY A BICYCLE...
IT..IT'S DISASTER CENTRAL
YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU!?
UWAAAH!
N. NO, I WAS THE ONE WHO JUMPED OUT
KABA KABA
THAT VOICE
CAN YOU ANSWER ME? HELLO...?

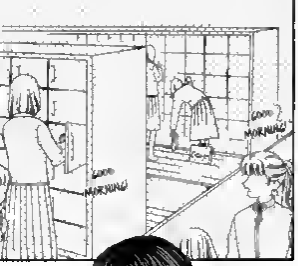
ARATA HONJO!!
UUUH!!
I CAN'T CATCH A BREAK TODAY!
DON'T JUMP OUT LIKE THAT. IT'S DANGEROUS.
AHH? OH, IT'S YOU. KAAH!
I'M SORRY I APOLOGIZED!

THIS IS THE WORST.
NOT ONLY WAS I RUN OVER, BUT THIS GUY SAW ME CRYING.
UWAAAH! MAKI-CHAN'S GONNA KILL ME! MY BIG BROTHER'S GONNA MAKE FUN OF ME! AAAUGH! I'M SO STUPID! STUPID STUPID!
SWEAT
HERE, GRAB ON. CAN YOU STAND?
OF COURSE IT HURTS! I RAN YOU OVER!
H...HEY! ARE YOU HURT?!
IS IT SO BAD YOU CAN'T TALK?! SAY SOMETHING, PLEASE!
HEY!
THIS SUCKS!

?
—ARE YOU.?
CRYING?

WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME!?
YOU IDIOT!
I'M TELLING YOU DON'T LOOK AT ME!
Guh!
WHY ...?
EH?
SHEESH.
ALREADY GONE
YOU FINALLY OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY?!
YOU'RE SO NOT CUTE!
DON'T CALL ME AN IDIOT, DAMMIT! WHO CARES WHAT YOU THINK?!
I'D...IOT?

I AM SO CONFUSED.
KAZUHA, WELCOME BACK.
YOU'RE BACK LATE
WHEN YOU'RE DONE EATING, WILL YOU HELP ME WITH MY MATH?
I'M NOT FEELING WELL. HAVE CHIZURU LOOK AT IT.
SORRY, MOMOKA.
OW!
RATTLE
WHAT'S REALLY THE WORST IS HOW I'VE BEEN TODAY.
AFTER ALL OF THIS, I'M FULL OF SELF-LOATHING.
KAZUHA ...?
SLAM

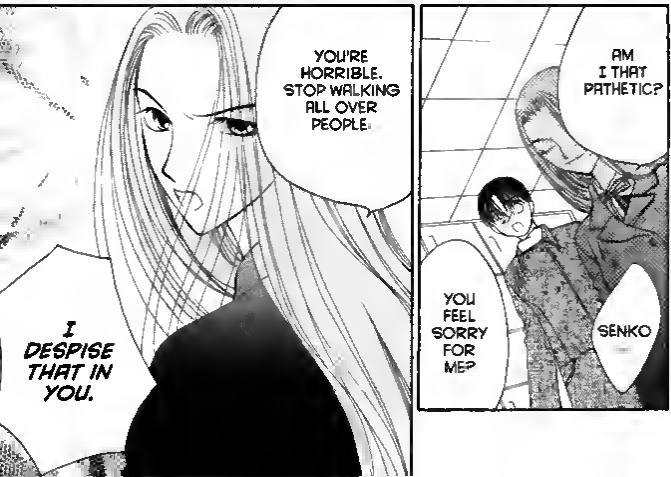


THIS IS MESSED UP.

I JUST TOOK MY ANGER OUT ON HIM...

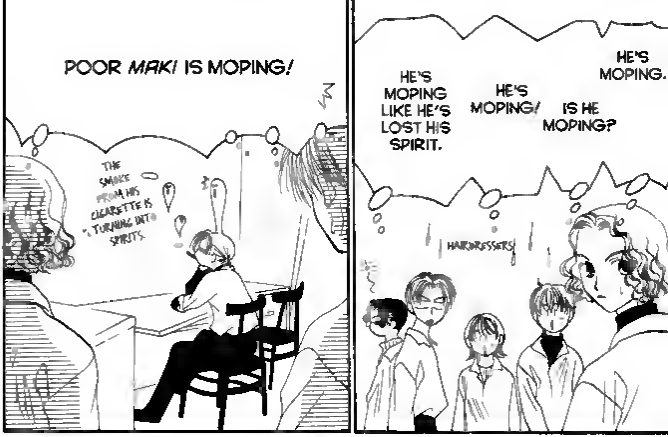
HEY, SENKO
GOOD M...
SLAP!

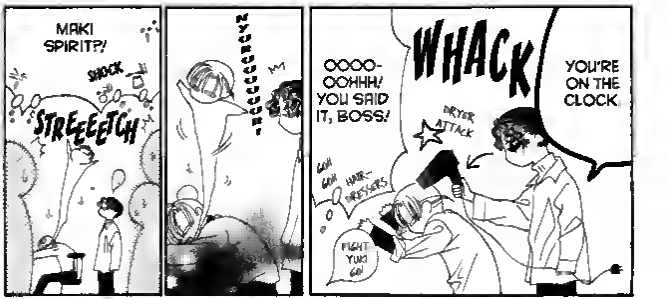
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
WAH!
MY BAG!?
WHAP
I WAS ON MY WAY HOME YESTERDAY WHEN SUGIMOTO GAVE IT TO ME.
SO I HEAR YOU'RE HOLDING BACK BECAUSE OF ME?


AM I THAT PATHETIC?
SENKO
YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME?
YOU'RE HORRIBLE. STOP WALKING ALL OVER PEOPLE.
I DESPISE THAT IN YOU.

MURMUR
MURMUR
SEN...
MURMUR
DID SUGIMOTO .....?
GULP
NGH... OW.
HOW DID SENKO FIND OUT?
WHY--?!
WHY? AM I WRONG?
I DID.
I TOLD MATSUOKA THAT YOU'RE ON THE FENCE BECAUSE OF HER
SUGIMOTO DIDN'T TELL HER ANYTHING.
ASAKO.

DID YOU REALLY THINK IT WAS OKAY?
YOU CAN'T MAKE ANYONE HAPPY WHILE YOU'RE RUNNING FROM YOUR OWN FEELINGS.
THE SEEDS OF MISFORTUNE
...SPREAD LIKE RIPPLES
I DON'T THINK I DID ANYTHING WRONG.
MAYBE I WAS MEDDLING, BUT JUST REMEMBER THIS...
THAT I SOWED MY-SELF ..


POOR MAKI IS MOPING!
THE SMOKE FROM HIS CIGARETTE IS TURNING INTO SPIRITS.
HE'S MOPING.
HE'S MOPING LIKE HE'S LOST HIS SPIRIT.
HE'S MOPING!
IS HE MOPING?
HAIRDRESSERS!

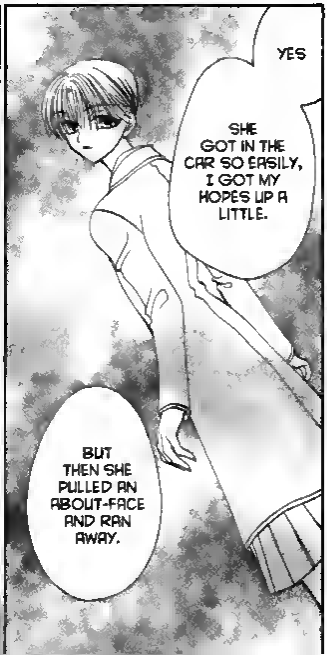

MAKI SPIRIT?!
SHOCK
STREEEETCH
-RUUUUUUN
OOOO-OOHHH! YOU SAID IT, BOSS!
WHACK
DRYER ATTACK
YOU'RE ON THE CLOCK
GAH GAH
HAIR-DRESSERS
FIGHT YUKI GO!

THAT'S SCARY!
MIKAKO-SAN.
COME ON, MAKI-CHAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DAILY HEAVEN CONTINUED
SINCE THEN, I ASKED LOTS OF PEOPLE, "YOU GET A FINE IF YOU THROW AWAY RAW WASTE, BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK RAW WASTE IS?" AND WHEN I DID, THEY ALL GAVE THE RIGHT ANSWER, SO I WAS SAD!
DANGEROUSLY
STILL NOT GET IT...
MAYBE I REALLY AM STUPID...
I DECIDED TO ASK MY BROTHER AS HE HAPPENED TO PASS BY.
SO JUST EAT IT
FLATLY
HRR—HAHR. THEY SAY YOU GET A FINE IF YOU THROW AWAY RAW WASTE
BROTHER
ME
IT TURNS OUT THAT BY RAW WASTE, THEY MEAN CATS AND DOGS.
IT WAS A MOMENT WHEN I THOUGHT, "THAT'S MY BROTHER."
YOU REALLY ARE MY BIG BROTHER!
YOU'RE EVIL!!
WHY YOU! ARE YOU GONNA EAT CATS AND DOGS?!
AHAHA, REALLY!
MISSING THE POINT
FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE A BETTER MATCH FOR ME. BUT HE'S A RELATIVE. (SIGH...) I SERIOUSLY HOPE THAT I NEVER SURPASS MY BROTHER

I...I'VE LOST MY FAITH.
IS THIS ABOUT THAT GIRL?

I DON'T UNDER-STAND GIRLS.


YES
SHE GOT IN THE CAR SO EASILY, I GOT MY HOPES UP A LITTLE.
BUT THEN SHE PULLED AN ABOUT-FACE AND RAN AWAY.

ESPECIALLY MY HUSBAND.
AND HE'S YOUR BROTHER.
HA HA HA...
I CAN'T REALLY PIN HIM DOWN. BUT YOU KNOW, I LIKE THAT ABOUT HIM, TOO
I RESPECT YOU, MIKADO-SAN.
DAAAAAAAZE

WELL, I DON'T UNDERSTAND MEN.
CHUCKLE
REALLY?
.....

BESIDES, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME PEOPLE NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT EACH OTHER ARE THINKING.
EVEN IF YOU UNDERSTAND TO AN EXTENT... ...IT WOULD BE SCARY IF YOU UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING, WOULDN'T IT?

DON'T YOU THINK AN ELEMENT OF MYSTERY IS MORE FUN?

MURMUR
THEN IT'S RIGHT BEFORE THE NEXT LIGHT
MURMUR
LIKE I SAID, TURN RIGHT AT THE FLOWERSHOP
WHERE?
BUT YOU KNOW.
OH, BUT IT'S FOR MY DARLING LITTLE BROTHER-IN-LAW.
SNICKER
I'M SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU
I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT MAYBE I'VE BEEN A LITTLE TOO PERSISTENT.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US IF YOU'RE FREE, MAKI?
WE'RE GOING BOWLING
DON'T BE SILLY/ MAKI-SAN IS NEVER FREE ON TUESDAYS.
THE BOSS AND MIKAKO ARE COMING, TOO.
WE WERE THINKING WE'D ALL GO OUT TOGETHER ON OUR NEXT DAY OFF
MAKI-CHAN...
YOU'RE ALL SO LIVELY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH, MAKI-SAN.

AAAH, I WISH I HAD PLANS!
OH--
AH HA HA, THAT'S DUMB!
RUSTLE
COLD!
IN THE END...
...I DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO EITHER ONE OF THEM ALL DAY
I WONDER IF IT'LL GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER...
BUT I SOWED THESE SEEDS MYSELF...
GLOOOOM
UWAH! THAT'S DEPRESSING!
TRUDGE
TRUDGE

HEY!
AH, YOU..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
YO.
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS CAN'T BE HELPED
WHA--?
-TCH- YOU NEVER CHANGE.
DOES I LOOK LIKE I NEED HREA-EN OO?
DID YOU COME TO THREATEN ME?!
AAAH?
YOU REALLY NEED TO ASK?
YESTERDAY YOU WERE CRY--

...WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?
IF I SAID I WAS WORRIED AFTER YESTERDAY AND CAME TO CHECK ON YOU..
NO.
I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT
THOUGHT NOT
DOUBTING EYES
OH, NO, IT'S TERRIBLE MADAME
OH HO HO HO HO
FINE, FINE...
NEVER MIND, DAMMIT.
MAN, I'M SO STUPID FOR CARING ABOUT PEOPLE
WAIT, SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
IS THAT ALL?
I'M OFF...
JINGLE
JINGLE
BYE-BYE!
WAI...

WHY..
AUGH, THAT WAS SCARY
WHY YOU! YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME!
SORRY!
UGAH!
GRAB
WAIT, DAMMIT!
HAGWA!
SLAM!
SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY.
I WAS TAKING THINGS OUT ON YOU.
SO I'M SORRY..

PAH!
'K...
'KAY.
AH, I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.
WHAT IS THIS? I MEAN...
WHAT ABOUT YOU? I RAMMED YOU WITH MY BIKE YESTERDAY. ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH I JUST SCRAPED MY HAND'S A LITTLE.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL
YOUR HANDS?!
IT WAS MY FAULT
WELL EXCUSE ME.
IT'S CREEPY WHEN YOU'RE OPEN LIKE THAT~~~
AAAHHH!
I DON'T FEEL BETTER.
KIND OF
DON'T BE STUPID!
NO MATTER HOW TINY A SCRATCH IT IS, WHEN MAKI-KUN FINDS OUT ABOUT IT, HE'LL KILL ME!
EHP I'M FINE. IT'S JUST A FEW SCRAPES.
I'LL BET IT HURTS! GIVE ME YOUR BAG! I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!
UWAH! IT'S TRUE! BOTH HANDS?! SORRY!
WHY WOULD I...LIE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU AT LEAST PUT BAND-AIDS ON THEM?
EEEH? THEY NEVER DRY AND THE STICKY STUFF AROUND THE EDGES TURNS BLACK...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON AS YOUR FRIEND?
HEY.
MY BIKE CAN'T SEAT TWO
AH?

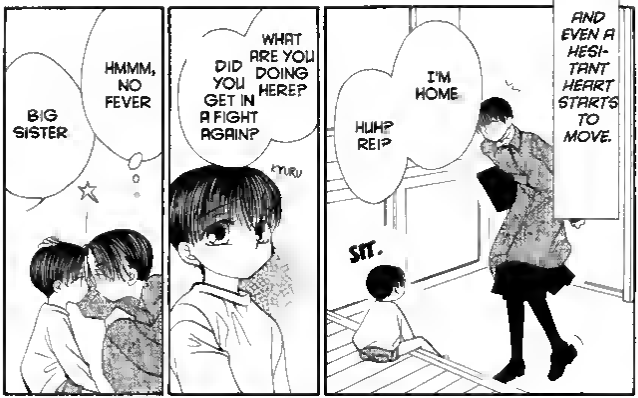
IF IT WORKS OUT, THEN GREAT.
AND EVEN IF I GOT DUMPED, I'D BE ABLE TO GIVE UP AND SAY IT JUST WASN'T MEANT TO BE.
IF IT WAS ME, I'D GO FOR IT.
AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, WE'LL ALWAYS JUST BE "FRIENDS."
THAT IN ITSELF IS PRETTY PATHETIC
OH REALLY?
I FOUND THE FIRST STAR!
IF THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR ME, THEN THAT WOULD MAKE ME LOOK EVEN MORE PATHETIC.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF MY FRIEND HELD BACK ON MY ACCOUNT, I'D BE PISSED OFF.
THUMP
STOP PUTTING PEOPLE DOWN ALREADY.
...YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?
IS THIS THE WAY TO YOUR HOUSE?
I'D DO WHAT I WANT BECAUSE I CARE ABOUT MY FRIEND

I THINK IT'S MUCH BETTER TO REGRET DOING SOMETHING.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO NOTHING AND REGRET IT LATER.
SUGIMOTO AND SENKO ARE PROBABLY BOTH HONEST WITH THEMSELVES LIKE HE IS.
IN COMPARISON, I HAVEN'T BEEN HONEST ABOUT ANY OF MY FEELINGS WITH ANYONE.
IF ALL YOU DO IS RUN AWAY BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN...
..YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO FORWARD, YOU KNOW?
I WONDER IF I STILL HAVE TIME.

UM... HEY, WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, I WANT TO ASK...
..... WHAT?
SWEAT SWEAT
THAT IS...
TUG
I GUESS IT REALLY WAS HER FAULT THAT MAKI WAS UNUSUALLY HOMICIDAL YESTERDAY.
WHAT AM I DOING?
DAMMIT! AM I A STRAW? I'M A STRAW?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW, STUPID!? FIGURE THAT OUT YOURSELF!
WAAAHH?! MEANIE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M NOT GETTING ALONG WITH THE FRIEND I INVITED TODAY TOO
IF YOU'RE CLOSED IN ON ALL SIDES TO THE POINT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING...
...WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
SHE'S GRASPING AT STRAWS...
HEY, TAKE THIS.
RIP
AH, MY HOUSE IS RIGHT OVER THERE.
AWW
I GUESS I SHOULD MAKE UP WITH MAKI FIRST

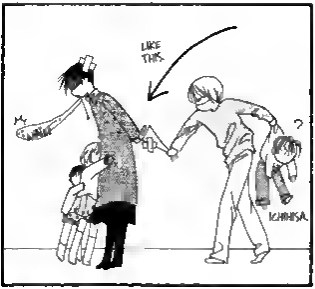
A PHONE NUMBER ...?
TERRIBLE HANDWRITING
SHUT UP
IT'S MAKI'S NUMBER.
I'M SUCH A NICE GUY.
IF YOU KNEW IT, THEN IT'S NOT MUCH HELP.
BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
WELL, I'M OFF.
ARATA HONJO!
WHAT?! YOU STILL NEED SOMETHING?
DON'T CALL ME BY MY FULL NAME!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE...
...I...
I OWE YOU ONE.

THUMP!
THANKS
FEELINGS EVOLVE...
BADUMP BADUMP THUMP
CRAP..
YOU'RE KIDDING ME
BADUMP BADUMP THUMP
LATER.
...!

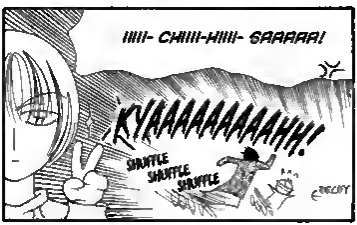

AND EVEN A HESI-TANT HEART STARTS TO MOVE.
I'M HOME
HUH? REI?
SIT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DID YOU GET IN A FIGHT AGAIN?
KYURU
HMMM, NO FEVER
BIG SISTER

OH, TONAMI DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO REI?
HUG
!
TONA..
THWACK!

THIS?
BAM!
SLAMMOE
SHIKI
ENP


LIKE THIS.
ICHIHISA

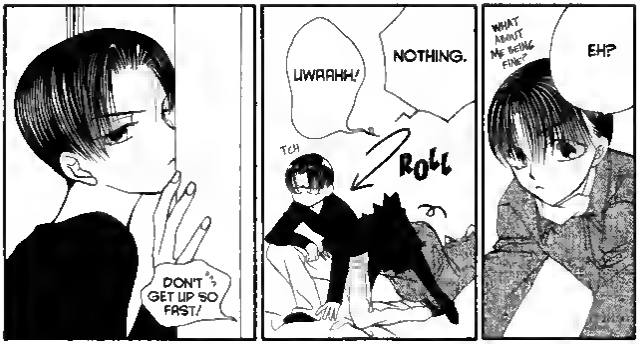
MANGA?
MUTTER MUTTER
UGH, WHAT'S WITH THOSE GUYS?
KACHA


IIIII- CHIIII-HIIII- SAAAAA!
KYAAAAAAAAAAH!
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
PIECOPY

HA HA HA
DON'T YOU "YO" ME! ONE AFTER ANOTHER, YOU LITTLE PUNKS!
Y... YOU SEEM FINE!
TICKLE ATTACK.
TICKLE. TICKLE. TICKLE.
!!!!?! STOP!

YO. YOU'RE HOME EARLY TODAY
RIGHT LEG.

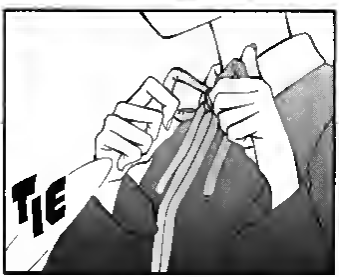
NGH...
MADE HIMSELF AT HOME


DON'T "♪" GET UP SO FAST!
UWAAHH!
NOTHING.
TCH
ROLL
WHAT ABOUT ME BEING FINE?
EH?

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE DEPRESSED
UGH, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY
IT'S OKAY.
DON'T BE SUCH A WORRY-WART. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
THEN...?
I DON'T WANT TO STAND ANYMORE!

I'M SURE
I DECIDED NOT TO GO TO HER FOR A WHILE.
I WON'T HESITATE ANYMORE.
HEY, CAN YOU FIT ONE MORE IN FOR NEXT TUESDAY?
WE SURE CAN. BUT WHY?
I WAS THINKING I WOULD JOIN YOU.
EH?! BUT... ARE YOU SURE?

世界でいちばん
大嫌い
I HATE YOU
more than anyone!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS 6 (OLDER WOMEN)

TEE HEE HEE. SINCE I STARTED THIS SERIES, I'VE GOTTEN MORE LETTERS FROM WOMEN OLDER THAN ME AND HOUSEWIVES AND THE LIKE. (BUT NOT A TON). THEIR LETTERS ARE SO MATURELY WRITTEN, IT ACTUALLY MAKES MY HEART POUND. KYA!

[A Friend of Mine]

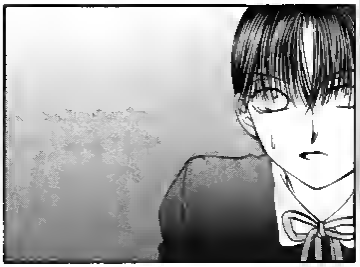
SPEAKING OF MARRIED WOMEN, SAIGA-SAN'S MOTHER THE MOTHER OF A MY FRIEND KYA IS KIND ENOUGH. SAIGA-SAN WAS AN ASSISTANT OF MINE. SHE'S GONE HOME TO NIIGATA NOW...BUT WHEN HIDAKA IS IN TROUBLE THEN SHE WILL BRING HER FRIENDS AND COME ALL THE WAY TO AICHI.

<SAIGA-SAN AND ME>

(ONE DAY)
IT'S THICK
AICHI
AICHI
BROWN
BROWN
IT'S FROM A HOUSEWIFE
LAMINATED WRAPPING
SHOGI DE PURIPURIMIRAI
BOOK IS PAGES
OF COURSE.
"TO SUGIMOTO, DON'T GO BALD!" SHE SAYS. TSK.
MY DAD LIKES WHITE MEN WHO SHOGI'D. LOVE IT
AT
WHEN MY MOTHER FINDS A FAX FROM YOU, SUNNY-SAN, SHE PUTS IT IN A FILE RIGHT AWAY
MOTHER... WHEN I CALL SAIGA-SAN AND HER MOTHER PICKS UP, I GET KIND OF EXCITED
SAIGA-SAN'S MOTHER. I LOVED THE APPLES. THEY WERE DELICIOUS~ S. KYAAA

AND I'M NOT THE SAME AS I WAS YESTERDAY--
KAZUHA! BREAKFAST!
I'M COMING
STARE
WHAT?
THERE, THERE.
PAT
PAT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IF I STAY DEPRESSED FOREVER, THERE'LL BE NO END TO IT.

IN ORDER TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD, STEP BY STEP.

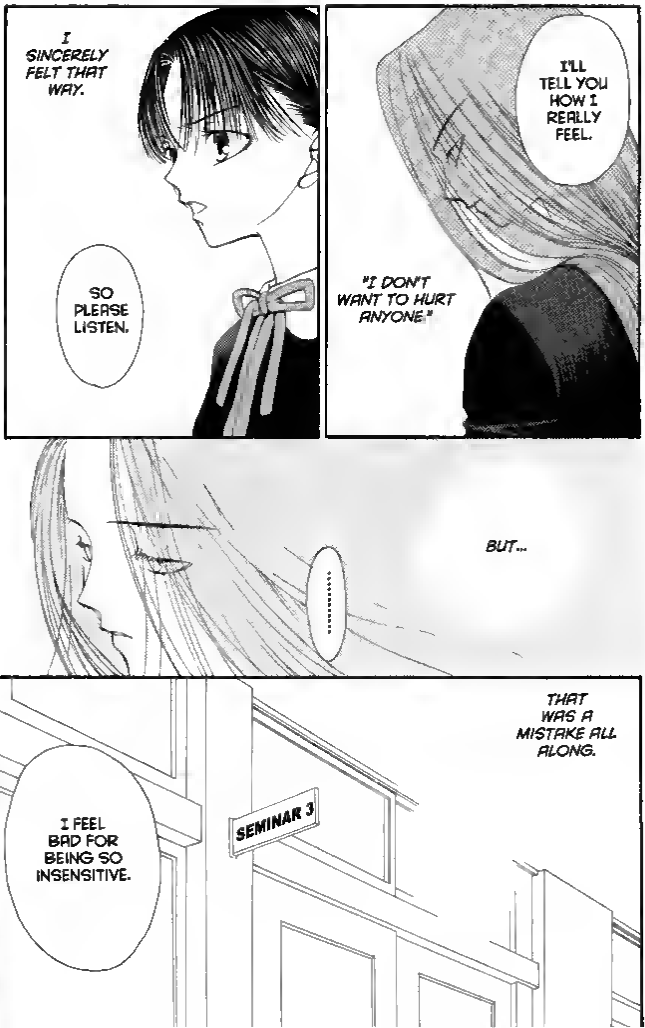


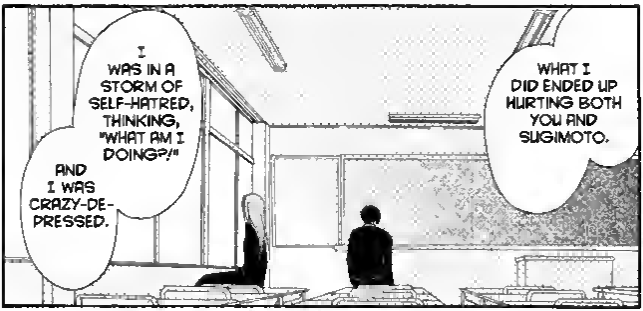
SENKO.

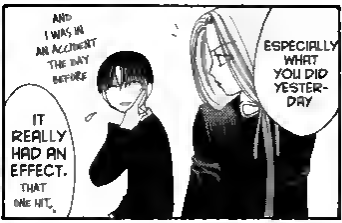
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU

WAIT!

I REALLY WANT TO TALK!


I SINCERELY FELT THAT WAY.
SO PLEASE LISTEN.
I'LL TELL YOU HOW I REALLY FEEL.
"I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE."
BUT...
.....
THAT WAS A MISTAKE ALL ALONG.
I FEEL BAD FOR BEING SO INSENSITIVE.
SEMINAR 3


I WAS IN A STORM OF SELF-HATRED, THINKING, "WHAT AM I DOING?!"
AND I WAS CRAZY-DE-PRESSED.
WHAT I DID ENDED UP HURTING BOTH YOU AND SUGIMOTO.

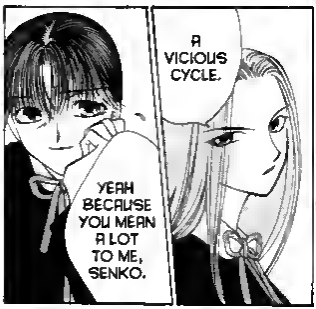

AND I WAS IN AN ACCIDENT THE DAY BEFORE
IT REALLY HAD AN EFFECT.
THAT ONE HIT.
ESPECIALLY WHAT YOU DID YESTER-DAY

I LOVE HIM.
SUGI-MOTO.

BUT, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.
THE NEXT THING I KNEW, HE WAS ALWAYS ON MY MIND.
EHP MEP MEP
BUT I ONLY RECENTLY REALIZED IT MYSELF
AT FIRST I THOUGHT, "YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING !?"
I CAN TELL THAT MUCH BY LOOKING AT YOU.
HA HA... HONJO-SAN FIGURED IT OUT RIGHT AWAY, TOO.
BUT REALLY THAT WAS!
I'M STILL REALLY CONFUSED.
TO BE HONEST, I'M SURPRISED
I'VE NEVER LIKED ANYONE LIKE THIS BEFORE
AND YET...

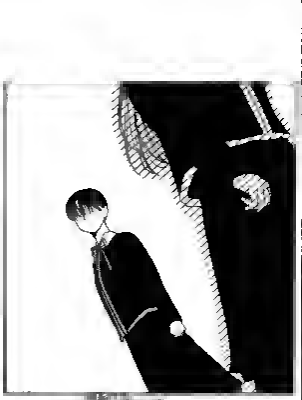
IT REALLY DOES MAKE ME HAPPY TO THINK OF SUGIMOTO.

.....
GAHUH!
AROUND AND AROUND
THAT TOOK ME BACK TO THE START.


A VICIOUS CYCLE.
YEAH BECAUSE YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME, SENKO.

THAT'S WHY IT GOT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.
I THOUGHT, "WELL WHAT ABOUT SENKO?"

I DON'T THINK IT MATTERS WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH WHO FIRST.
I'M STUPID, SO IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO REALIZE THAT.
I DON'T ... WANT TO LOSE ...
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH LONGER YOU'VE LIKED HIM, SENKO...
. MY FEELINGS DON'T MEAN LESS THAN YOURS.

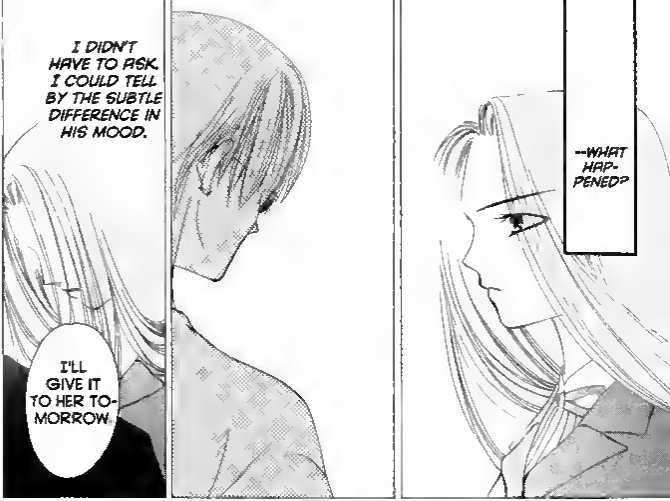


DING DONG...

I DON'T THINK I'LL SEE CHANGES ANY TIME SOON.

I GUESS THAT LINE WAS A LITTLE CHEESY.
I'M SO NERVOUS!
PHHHHH!

SENKO-CHAN...
THE REAL CHALLENGE STARTS NOW
SUGI-MOTO-SAN...
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME RIGHT NOW?
YEAH.
THEN YOU JUST WALKED KAZUHA HOME, RIGHT?
?
A SCHOOL BAG ..IS IT KAZUHA'S?
DID SHE FORGET .. IT?
YES. CAN I COUNT ON YOU?
?
SENKO-CHAN, WOULD YOU GIVE THIS TO HER FOR ME?


I DIDN'T HAVE TO ASK. I COULD TELL BY THE SUBTLE DIFFERENCE IN HIS MOOD.
I'LL GIVE IT TO HER TOMORROW.
--WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M SORRY ...
...I WOULD RATHER ..

EVERYONE! TRADE SEATS BEFORE THE TEACHER GETS HERE, OKAY?
...YOU HAD SAID "THANK YOU."
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
ANEDA
KATO
SEATS
I'M FINALLY FREE!
I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE!

UM, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN SO CLOSE TO YOU, ISN'T IT, AKIYOSHI-SAN? UM, ACTUALLY, THAT IS, HOW TO PUT IT... I'VE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, BUT I'M SO SHY. IF YOU DON'T MIND...LET'S BE FRIENDS...WHEW
SENKO IS FAR AWAY.
BEFORE NOW, WE SAT NEXT TO EACH OTHER SO IT WAS STILL OKAY, BUT WITH OUR SEATS SO FAR APART, WE CAN'T COMMUNICATE
NOT HEARING ANY OF IT

AARUGH, THINGS JUST DON'T GO WELL.
THUD

I'M HAVING THE WORST LUCK THIS WEEK AND IT'S ONLY MONDAY MORNING! GOD HATES ME!
RATTLE
RATTLE
OH DEAR...
OH THE COLD SIDE
MA-TSUOKA, WHERE ARE YOU?
GRRR!
BY THE HALL, SECOND FROM THE FRONT
BY THE SUNNY WINDOWS, SECOND FROM THE BACK
TEARS
RATTLE

UM.
SENKO.
SEN...
YOU WERE SAYING YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING, WEREN'T YOU?
EHP?
YOU LOOK SO GOOD WITHOUT GLASSES.
SMILE
GET LOST!!
I DON'T MIND. DON'T BE SHY; TRADE SEATS WITH ME.
OK! OK! OK!
WITH MY GLASSES, I CAN SEE FROM HERE...
GULP! MATSUOKA-SAN! SHE'S EVER PRETTIER UP CLOSE! UHHHH...
UH.. UM, BUT
YES?
OH, WHAT A SHAME.

WELL THEN, THANK YOU FOR STICKING WITH ME TO THE END

<THE VOLUME'S SPECIAL THANKS>

- SUGINO-SAN
- KURARA-CHAN
- SUNACHO
- JUN-CHAN
- KOYAMA-SAN
- MOM
- YO-CHAN

AND KARI MOCHIZUKI-SAMA. I'M SORRY TRULY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH GYA..

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, EVERYONE

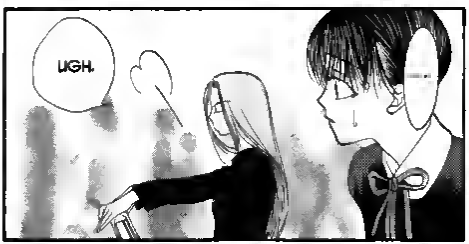
AND THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO PICKED UP AND READ THIS BOOK.

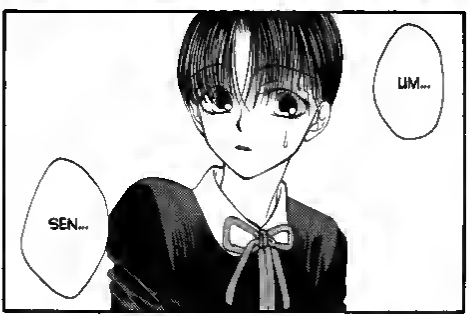
I'M WAITING TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK

<ADDRESS>
BANRI HIDAKA
C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT ST.
SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

MAY 31 (SUN.) WAS HIDAKA'S BIRTHDAY TO ALL YOU WHO SENT FAXES, LETTERS, FLOWERS, PRESENTS, ETC., THANK YOU FOR BEING SO KIND TO HIDAKA. I LOVED THEM ALL TO BITS.

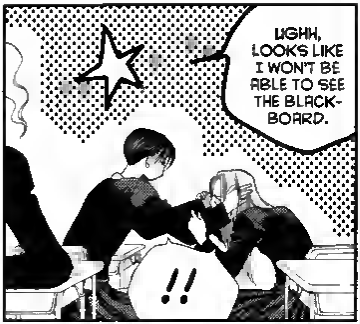
THEY GAVE ME FLOWERS AND MERCHANDISE OF MY FAVORITE CHARACTER, MIFFY-CHAN
SINCE SHE WAS WRITING.
GUESS WHAT, GUESS WHAT! MY READERS AND FRIENDS
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HER,





I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONCE, SO CLEAN OUT YOUR EARS AND LISTEN CAREFULLY.
NOD NOD NOD
MY, SUCH GOOD MANNERS
SITTING UP STRAIGHT
TURN
!!
I WON'T HOLD BACK
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU THINK
AND I DON'T CARE HOW YOU BEAT YOURSELF UP.
BUT...

MY FEELINGS DON'T MEAN LESS THAN YOURS, EITHER.
HYAH!
JUST YOU WATCH.
SOMEDAY, I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET THAT YOU WENT EASY ON ME IN YOUR LOVE AFFAIR.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I WANT TO BE MORE HONEST WITH MYSELF.



IT'S NOT EASY ..

.. BUT WITH JUST A LITTLE BIT OF CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE ...

...THE WORLD OPENS UP

"KAZUHA, YOU REALLY ARE STUPID "

"SHE IS, ISN'T SHE?"

"WHY ARE YOU GANGING UP ON ME? DON'T CALL ME 'STUPID'!"

"ONLY AN IDIOT DOESN'T KNOW SHE'S STUPID."

"!/"

"DAMN IT!/"

"AH HA HA HA HA!"

YOU'VE BEEN FIDGETY SINCE LAST WEEKEND.
DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH SOME-BODY OR SOME-THING?
!
AND YOU COULD PASS FOR A STATUE IF YOU'D JUST KEEP *YOUR* MOUTH SHUT.
GAZE
YOU REALLY ARE CUTE WHEN YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, ARATA.
GAZE

17th SHOCK!
EH!?
BRIGHT RED.
YOU HAVE A LIE DETECTOR ON YOUR FACE.
IT'S SO CONVENIENT
ARATA
O...OF COURSE NOT, STUPID.
HA HA HA. COME ON, TAKASAKI-KUN.
I'M BETTER AT CHICKEN DANCING
I'LL DANCE A CHICKEN DANCE!
DAAAHH! SHUT UP!
SMACK
EEEHHH? WHO IS IT!?
WHERE IS SHE FROM? IS IT RIKA IN FIFTH GRADE? OR THE SECOND GRADER KATE? I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS! TELL ME!
IT'S KAZUHA AKIYOSHI
IT'S ..
YEAH? WHO?

I'M SERIOUS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
LEAVE ME ALONE.
I FALL IN LOVE EASILY, OKAY?
WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
YOU HATED HER SO MUCH
TRUE WELL, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME WITH YOU.
WHY YOU--! YOU COULD AT LEAST DENY IT!
WHY? IT'S TRUE ISN'T IT?
"WHY" ..?
NO, THAT IS- AUGH! MAN, THIS IS A PAIN!

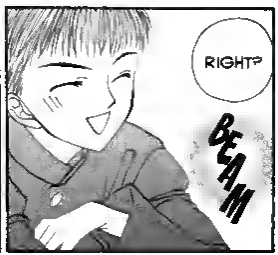
WHY?
I GUESS THERE'S NO CHANCE IT'D EVER WORK ANYWAY.
ARE YOU DOCHITE BOYA FROM UCCYU-SAN?
"I OWE YOU ONE."
YOU KNOW...
THANKS.
I WONDER...
...IF THEY'VE MADE UP YET.

ISN'T YOUR MOTTO "GO FOR IT!!"?
WHY YOU--! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
MY FACE! MY FACE!

TRIP
とびっ

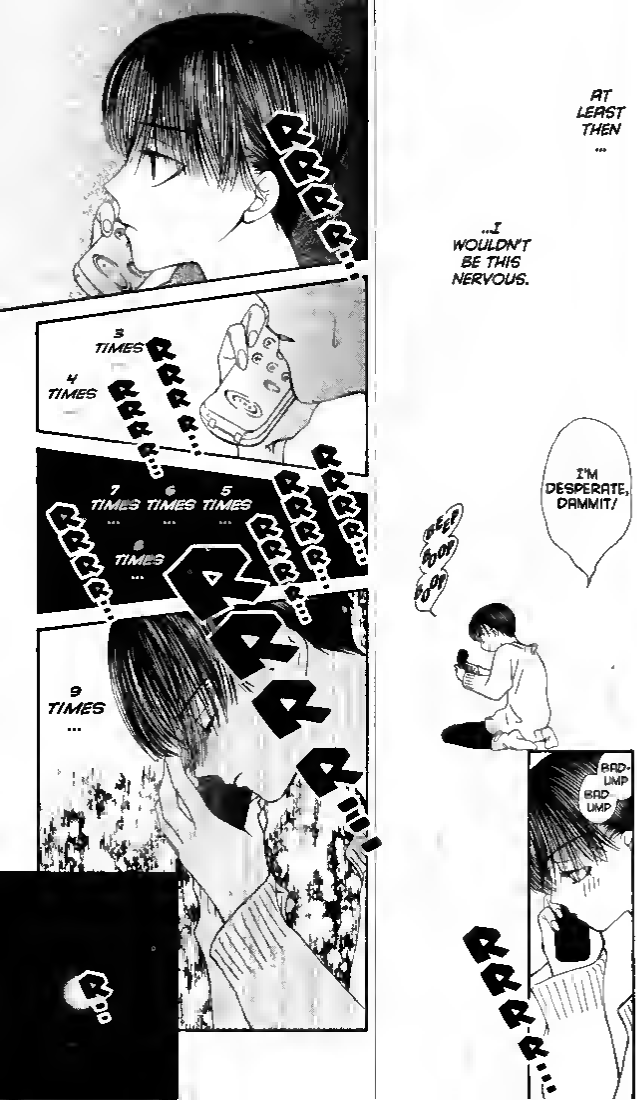
WHETHER OR NOT THERE'S A CHANCE DEPENDS ON YOU

SMILE
YEAH.


RIGHT?
BEAM

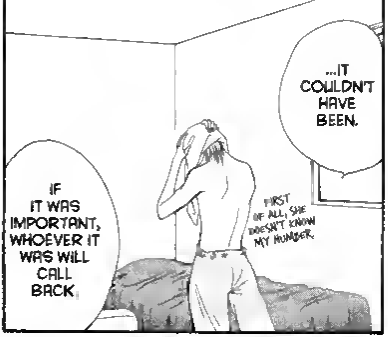
SIMPLETON.
HA HA HA! JUST YOU WATCH, MAKI...ERK AAAAUGH! DAMMIT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HER HIS PHONE NUMBER!
HOWL AT THE MOON!!
I...
I'M AFRAID TO CALL HIM.
GLOOOOOOOM
AARUGH, I'VE ALREADY MEMORIZED THE NUMBER.
SUGIMOTO... HE SHOULD BE HOME BY NOW.
.....

I WONDER IF HE'D TELL ME OFF?
WHAT WOULD I SAY?
I WONDER IF IT WOULD BOTHER HIM IF I CALLED?
I CAN'T.
THUMP
I'M SURE THE REASON PEOPLE HESITATE TO CALL PEOPLE...
...IS THAT THEY CAN'T SEE THE OTHER PERSON
I WANT TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYES WHEN I TALK TO HIM.
IF ONLY THERE WERE VIDEO PHONES.
WOULD THAT BE SCARY?


AT LEAST THEN ...
...I WOULDN'T BE THIS NERVOUS.
I'M DESPERATE, DAMMIT!
BAD-UMP
BAD UMP
RRRR...
3 TIMES
4 TIMES
7 TIMES
6 TIMES
5 TIMES
8 TIMES
9 TIMES
R!!!
R...

GYU
SUGIMOTO ...
UM..
HELLO, THIS IS SUGIMOTO.
GULP!!
AH ...
THIS IS KAZUHA.
I'M NOT HOME RIGHT NOW.
SUGIMOTO!!
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND A MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE.
THE...
KAZUHA, IF YOU'RE NOT USING THE PHONE, LET ME HAVE IT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UH...
YEAH.
OOPS, I JUST ACCIDENTALLY
CONDITIONED RESPONSE TO ANSWERING MACHINES.
..THE ANSWERING MACHINE?!
BEEP!

...HE CAME THE NEXT TUESDAY AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED, SO I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY THIS TIME, TOO.
EVEN AFTER HE KISSED ME...
IT WAS THE SUN
DANCING HANHWA
IT...IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY.
AND HE WAS PERFECTLY FINE
CAMEL
FOR SOME REASON, SHE IMAGINES THE DESERT
WELL... OH WELL. TOMORROW'S TUESDAY. I CAN SEE HIM AT THE DAYCARE.
WHAT'LL I DO IF HE DOESN'T COME?
IT'LL BE OKAY...
IT'S KIND OF A SHOCK TO GET HUNG UP ON AS SOON AS YOU PICK UP.
WHY DO EVERYONE HANG UP WHEN THEY GET THE ANSWERING MACHINE? AT LEAST SAY SOMETHING.
JUST OUT OF THE BATH.
UGH, REALLY. I WONDER WHO IT WAS
CLICK
"TOOOOOONE"



--TOMORROW IS TUESDAY--

I HATE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE 2, THE END